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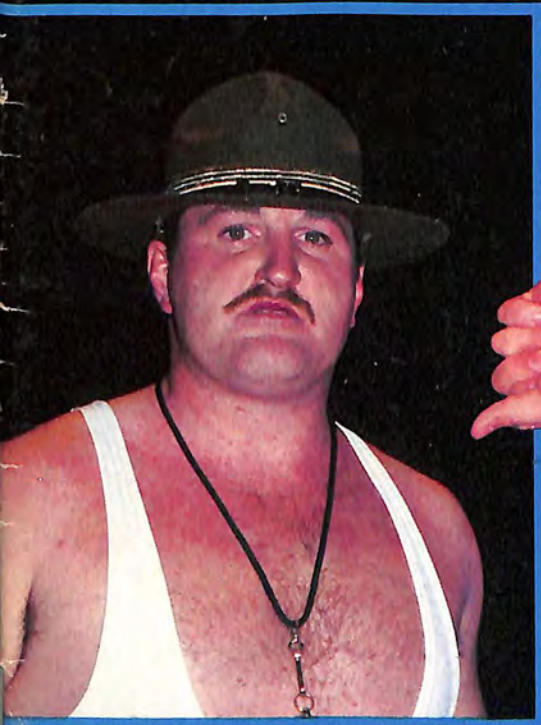
Inside

THE FIRST INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW CAPT. LOU ALBANO:
"I'LL MAKE PIPER PAY!"

47727 May 1985
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The Exclusive Story: **WHY
SGT. SLAUGHTER
HAD TO LEAVE
THE WWF**

Another Garvin
Mind-game?
**WILL RICK MARTEL
TRADE THE
AWA BELT FOR
JIM GARVIN'S
VALET?**



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SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

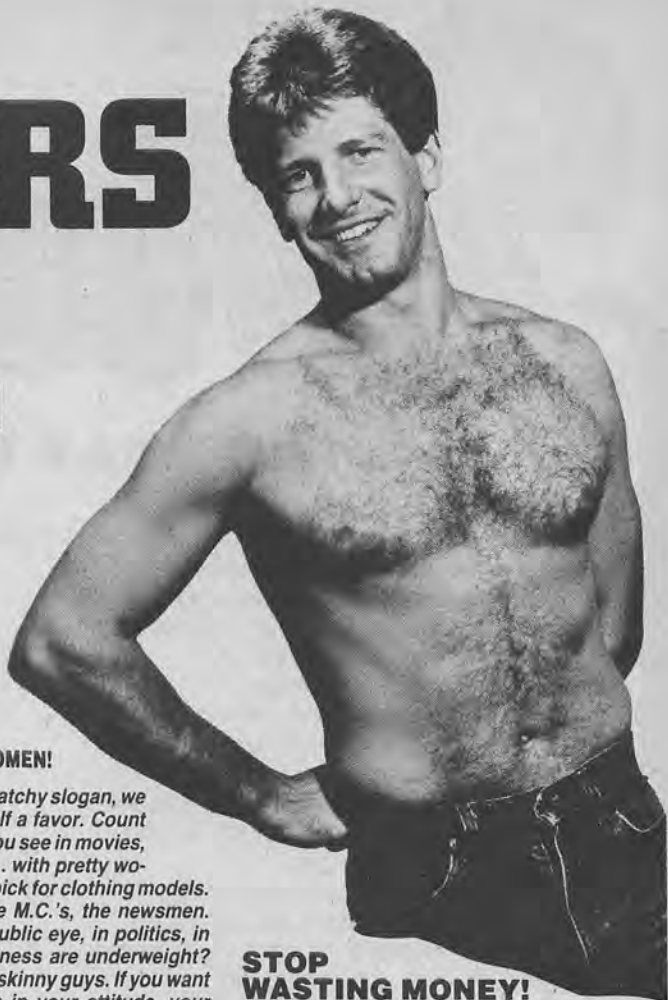
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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Cover photos:
Martel vs. Garvin by
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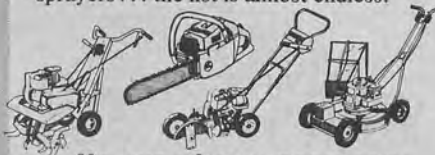
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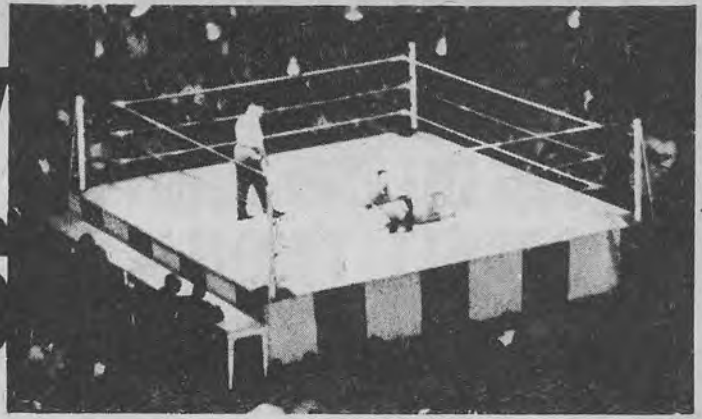
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CHANGES MUST BE MADE

Although I love the WWF, I do have a few complaints. Every week on WOR-TV in New York, the same wrestlers are always on. I really don't care to see John Studd against Billy Travis or Kamala against Rick McGraw.

I also hate hearing the announcers quote every match as "a main event in any arena," and praising the "skills" of S.D. Jones, Charlie Fulton, etc. These guys are journeymen who will never amount to anything.

And I am not impressed watching Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo beat Rusty Brooks and Charlie Fulton. I would like them to wrestle Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch, the best tag team ever. Windham and Rotundo would be dead after three minutes.

And how come we never see Hulk Hogan on TV? If I didn't have cable and had to rely on broadcast television to see WWF wrestling, I think I'd die. Finally, how come I never hear about the matches that are advertised on TV after they occur? I have no idea of what the "Hulkster" or anyone else is doing.

I love the WWF, but some changes MUST be made.

KEN PERRIN
Baldwin Harbor, NY

MORE ON OLYMPIA

I have enjoyed reading *Inside Wrestling* for some time, but I hope you will devote some more space to coverage of the Southeast portion of the country, especially in respect to a fantastic wrestler—Mr Olympia! This man has proven himself time and time



Mr. Olympia has become the most popular wrestler in the Southeast, reports reader Carla Gaught. Carla says that Olympia is not only an excellent wrestler, but a fine human being as well.

again. He cannot only wrestle scientifically, but he can get down and dirty with the best of them, like Arn Anderson.

Mr. Olympia has become a champi-

on to the people here not only because of his excellent wrestling ability and style, but because he is a terrific person. Olympia has gone through a great

(Continued on page 50)

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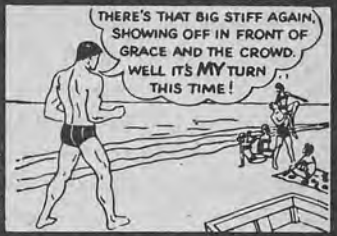
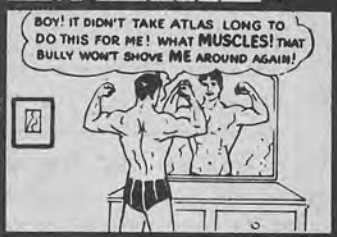
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

It is the biggest wrestling story of the decade: Sgt. Slaughter has left the WWF at the height of his popularity. And now, for the first time, I can tell you the inside story.

Slaughter was under contract to wrestle in the WWF for 1984. His contract expired at the end of the year, and the negotiations between him and WWF head Vince McMahon were intense. Reportedly, the Sarge wanted a title shot at Hulk Hogan, but this could not be worked out. So, after months of heated negotiations, Slaughter decided to leave the WWF for the new Pro Wrestling U.S.A. promotion.

If you want to put Slaughter's move into perspective, consider this: It's sort of like if the entire San Francisco 49'er team left the NFL for the USFL. Yes, it's that big.

First indications were that Slaughter's fans were flocking to see their hero in his new league. Said one fan at a recent show at the Ridgewood Grove Arena in New York City: "This is incredible! Slaughter and The Road Warriors in the same federation. It's almost too good to be true!"

And indeed, it is very good. Slaughter is just as successful with the PW/USA group as he was with the WWF. And what's more, he has been promised not one, but two, world title shots, against NWA World champion Ric Flair and AWA World champion Rick Martel.

"I look at this way," Slaughter said. "After I win the AWA and the NWA titles, Hulk Hogan will come to me begging for a match. Then the shoe will be on the other foot: I'll have to decide if I want to give him a title match."

Neither Hulk Hogan nor Vince McMahon were available for comment. But one thing's for sure. Sgt. Slaughter has turned wrestling upside down, and no matter what, the sport will never be the same again.

'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Stu
Saks**

IF THERE ARE any typographical errors in this column, don't blame me. The sides of my neck are throbbing and I'm dizzy, very dizzy. I could have waited until I was completely recovered before I wrote the column, but I wanted to do it while the feeling was still fresh in my mind. Besides, I'm not sure I'll ever completely recover.

Sgt. Slaughter was in our New York offices just now to do a studio photo session. As Bill Apter and Craig Peters snapped away, I looked at the Sarge and thought about how massive he was in person. Especially his arms. Those same arms that apply his famed cobra clutch.

The cobra clutch has always confused me. I could see how effective it was, but I could never tell exactly what it did to a man. Unlike a backbreaker or a Boston crab or a swinging neckbreaker, which are applied in such a way that an observer can tell exactly what is going on, the cobra clutch is more or less hidden by the arms of both the man applying it and its victim.

Unfortunately, my curiosity got the better of me. When Bill and Craig were finished taking their pictures, I asked the Sarge if he would mind putting me in the hold.

"You're sure now," he asked.

"Why not," I said. "If you hear something snap, just let go."

Let me tell you about pain.

Let me describe for you the feeling of being a victim of Sgt. Slaughter's cobra clutch.

The first thing Slaughter did was bend my left arm in front of me. Then he wrapped his right arm around the back of my neck

(Continued on page 54)

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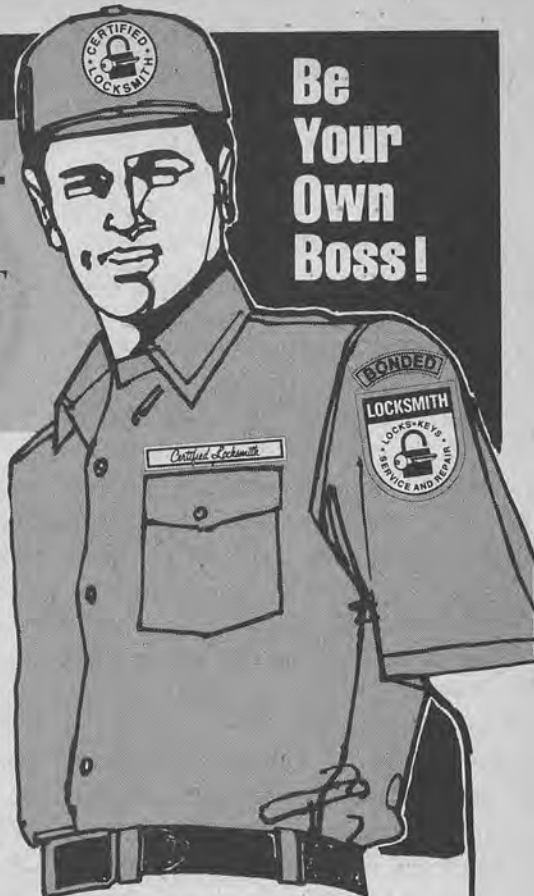


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WHEN ONE THINKS of excellence in the area of professional wrestling announcing and commentating, Gordon Solie immediately comes to mind. Having spent portions of four decades behind the microphone discussing wrestling, Solie has certainly earned the epithet, "The Walter Cronkite of Professional Wrestling."

But what about the Dan Rathers, the John Chancellors, the Ted Koppels, and the Mike Wallaces? How about the Harry Reasoners, the Tom Brokaws, the Morley Safers, and the MacNeil-Lehrers?

This column is a salute to some of those commentators in wrestling that don't get enough attention. These are men who deserve to be recognized for the fine work they do behind the microphone; all too often they're overlooked by both the fans and the press.

Mark Lowrance and Bill Mercer: The World Class area is one of the most exciting, fast-paced wrestling areas in the country. In addition to two major singles titles, The World Class American and the World Class Texas heavyweight titles, the area also recognizes the World Class tag team and the World Class six-man titles. Wrestlers from across the country and around the world have flocked to the World Class area in recent months looking for matches against the respective World Class champions and against the premier wrestling family in the world, the Von Erichs. In addition, NWA World champion Ric Flair has made many title defenses in the area. On their respective World Class area wrestling programs, both Mark Lowrance and Bill Mercer are able to keep close track of the hectic pace in the World Class area. Their analytical skills are excellent, and they both acknowledge and follow the psychological tactics in a match as well as the physical ones. Also impressive are their abilities to explain complicated developments in the World Class area, and to place current events in historical perspective. If you have never seen a World Class wrestling program, you are certainly missing out on one of the very best productions anywhere in the wrestling world.

David Crockett and Bob Caudle: From its weekly television programs to the annual "Starrcade" spectacular, the Mid-Atlantic area is the nerve center of the NWA. Not only are the NWA World champion and NWA World tag team champions based in that area, but several of the most important regional titles in the world are located in the Mid-Atlantic: the U.S. and Mid-Atlantic singles titles, plus the Mid-Atlantic tag team championship. David Crockett and Bob Caudle are the two men who deftly guide viewers through the complex series of events that occur each week in the Mid-Atlantic area. And neither Crockett nor Caudle are afraid to get their hair mussed: They're both aggressive interviewers who are not afraid to ask questions that might incite a wrestler. Both

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Crockett and Caudle have become physically involved in altercations with wrestlers from time to time, most recently involving Exotic Adrian Street in one instance, and Tully Blanchard in another. They are both expert commentators in what may be the most important hub for professional wrestling anywhere in the country.

Doug McCloud, Larry Nelson, & Ken Resnick: This AWA broadcasting team

keeps sharp tabs on what may be the most quickly developing wrestling area in the world. AWA World champion Rick

Martel and AWA World tag team champions The Road Warriors are notable representatives for the AWA, which also includes such top names as Jim Garvin, Crusher Blackwell, Baron Von Raschke, Mr. Saito, Nick Bockwinkel, Greg Gagne, and The Fabulous Ones, to name but a few. Doug McCloud, Larry Nelson, and Ken Resnick stay on top of all the action throughout the AWA. In addition, McCloud and Resnick serve double duty: They're both commentators for the *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* program, which airs on WPIX New York Channel 11. McCloud and Resnick have to be particularly sharp on all recent developments in the wrestling world: *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* highlights stars from both the AWA and the NWA!



Russell interviews Jerry Lawler

Unfortunately, I'm almost out of space, and only able to briefly mention some of the other top broadcasters in the country:

The Mid-South team of **Boyd Pierce, Bill and Joel Watts, and Jim Ross** is excellent, and in the face of some of the most heinous events in professional wrestling (such as tar-and-featherings) should be commended for restraining themselves from becoming personally involved in such incidents. By the way, where does Boyd Pierce buy his suits? . . . **Lance Russell** is keenly adept at interviewing both rulebreakers and fan favorites in the Mid-Southern area, and is certainly the most personably laid-back commentator in the sport ("Okaaaay, let's find what Jerry Lawler has to say about this situation, huh friends?") . . . And I certainly don't want to forget a well-deserved tip of the hat to Southwest commentator **Steve Stack**, and Pacific Northwest announcer **Don Kotch** . . . And as for the WWF announcers and commentators—who has space to list them all! □

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NAMES MAKING

Eddie Gilbert is now the Mid-Southern heavyweight champion, thanks to a little help from his manager **Jimmy Hart** and a towel full of ether! Gilbert was wrestling Mid-Southern champion **Jerry "The King" Lawler** for the title in Memphis, Tennessee, in a Texas death match. Lawler caught Gilbert twice with the piledriver, and Gilbert grabbed an object out of his trunks and hit Lawler. While referee **Paul Morton** tried to get the object away from Gilbert, Hart shoved an ether-doused towel in Lawler's face. Gilbert gave up the weapon and moved in for an easy pinfall against an extremely dazed and groggy Lawler.

Capt. Lou Albano has improved on his world record of tag team championships and gained an unprecedented 14th WWF title as he managed the team of **Barry Windham** and **Mike Rotundo** to a title victory over **Adrian Adonis** and **Dick Murdoch** on January 21 in Hartford, Connecticut.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

cut. This is Albano's 11th championship team. (**The Samoans** wore the WWF tag team belts three times, and the combination of **Mr. Fuji** and **Mr. Saito** held the title twice.) It should be noted that some sources have been calling this Albano's 12th team and 15th championship, but those sources also include **Bepo Mongol** and **Gito Mongol**, who Albano managed to the International tag team title, which predated the formation of the WWF tag team championship.

Rick Rude is the new Florida heavyweight champion. He defeated



RICK RUDE

Pez Whatley for the title on January 21 in Tampa, Florida . . . **Ted DiBiase** captured the North American heavyweight title from **Brad Armstrong** on January 16 in Shreveport, Louisiana . . . **The Fabulous Ones** are headed back to the Mid-Southern area with the hopes of regaining the Mid-Southern tag team belts from **The Interns**, managed by **Troy Graham**.

Butch Reed seems to be heading

from singles competition into tag team competition. He's been teaming regularly with **Iceman King Parsons** in the Mid-South area, and with **Sweet**



BUTCH REED

Brown Sugar in Florida. "Either Iceman or Sugar would make a great partner for me," Reed told *Inside Wrestling*, "but I'm not sure which of my brothers wants to team with me on a regular schedule. They're both dynamite partners, and I'll welcome them both whenever they want to team with me."

Michael Hayes, **Terry Gordy**, and **Buddy Roberts**—**The Fabulous Freebirds**—have been feuding in Florida with the three-man combination of **The Saint**, **Boris Zhukhov**, and **Krusher Khrushchev**. But as Freebird brother Hayes told us, Florida is quite different than Texas. "The 'Birds have been wiping up all the competition here in Florida," Hayes said, "and we're chomping at the bit

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

for some more competition. Maybe we'll go back to good ol' Texas for a few laughs and pound those **Von Erich** punks a little more!"

Following their loss of the National tag team title to **Ole Anderson** and **Thunderbolt Patterson**, **The Irwins** have split up to go their separate ways. **Bill Irwin** is wrestling in Florida;



BILL & SCOTT IRWIN

no word yet on where **Scott Irwin** may end up... **Dan Running Bear** and **Billy Two Eagles** captured the Pacific Northwest tag team belts from **Mike Miller** and **Mr. Ebony** on January 12 in the Portland Sports Arena... **Kevin Sullivan** is on his way to Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Gary Hart reports that he is upset about the NWA's "consistent negligence" regarding **Chris Adams** and NWA World title matches. "**Terry Gordy** gets a title shot with **Ric Flair**," Hart said, "**Kerry Von Erich** gets a title shot with **Rickie Flair**, but what about Chris? The NWA has re-

peatedly overlooked the man who is in fact the greatest professional wrestler in the world today. Well, I have a final solution for this problem. I'm going to be taking care of business very, very soon." It seems that part of Hart's "final solution" involves the activities of the 402-pounder from Chicago, **One Man Gang**.

Tully Blanchard recently held a "Perfect 10" contest. He was searching for the perfect woman to be his valet. The winner? **Nicola Roberts**, late of the World Class area where she was valet to **Gino Hernandez**. Blanchard, however, prefers not to call her by the name "Nicola Roberts," instead



BABY DOLL

using the appellation **Baby Doll**. If she's as much of a help to Blanchard in the Mid-Atlantic as she was to Hernandez in Texas, then Tully's opponents are in for a lot of trouble!

A special note to television wrestling fans in the Northeast: Mid-Atlantic

wrestling can be seen regularly on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. on Pittsburgh's WPGH Channel 53, and on Philadelphia's WPHL Channel 17 at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. And Northeast fans of Florida wrestling can now see those matches on Wednesday nights at 11:30 p.m. on the Cable Television Network of New Jersey, representing 36 separate television stations!

This month's column ends on a very sad note. **Eddie Graham**, the legendary veteran of professional wrestling, died in Florida on January 21.



EDDIE GRAHAM

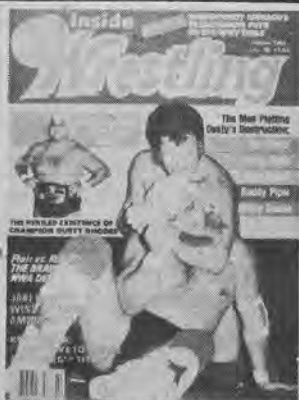
Graham, the father of Mike Graham, became famous in the 1950s and 1960s for his tag team matches with brothers Jerry and Luke. He served as NWA President in the late 1970s. Over the past several years, Eddie had become an important civic figure in the Sunshine State. He was instrumental in the formation of the Boys Ranch/Girls Villa, a home for wayward children. In recent years, Eddie Graham's name was virtually synonymous with Florida area wrestling. He was an important figure in the wrestling world, and he will be greatly missed.

That's all for now, wrestling fans. See you at the matches! □

BACK ISSUES OF



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OCTOBER 1981

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.
August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.
September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.
November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.
June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.
August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.
January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.
February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.
November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.
May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.
February 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Koloff, Johnson.
March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
May 1978/Stories include: Race, Putski, Von Erich, Andre.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.



NOVEMBER 1984

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.
October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.
November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blasie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
October 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Patera, Muraco, Roberts.
November 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Andre, Snuka.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.
February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

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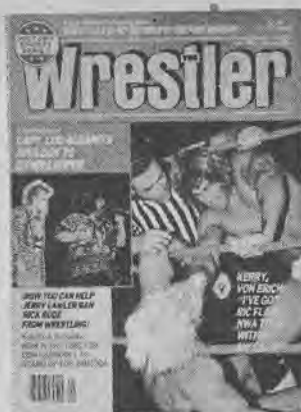
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JANUARY 1985

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.
May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.
June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.
August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.
September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.
October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.
November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.
January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.
February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.
March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.
May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.
June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.
July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.
August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.
October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.
December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.
January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.
March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.
April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.
June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.
July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.
August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligan, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Hogan, Rich, Andre.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

February 1975/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Brisco, Sheik.

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

July 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Sammartino, Race, Rhodes.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

March 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Putski, Lawler.

June 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Putski, Patera, Bruiser.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

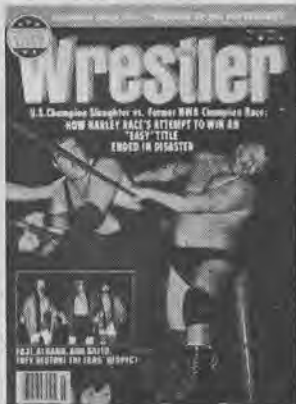
October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

March 1978/Stories include: Graham, Flair, Rich, Patera.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.



MARCH 1982

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.
December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.
February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.
March 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, Rhodes, Maivia.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

[The opinions expressed in "Body Slams & Pinfalls" are those of Dan Shocket alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

FOR A HERO or visionary, there is nothing more dangerous than worshippers. In their lust to do their idol honor, these leeches devour the leader's substance and finally render him powerless. His strength stolen from him, the hero is now nothing more than a figurehead, a shell that is useless for anything save adoration by those who now control him.

It's taken me about 20 minutes to write this next paragraph. I keep trying to think of some way to give it a sense of optimism. Reality doesn't always allow us optimism. The fact remains that Lou Albano is almost assuredly finished as a force in wrestling. Hooked on the drug of public approval, Albano has been reduced to fan favorite, which makes him worthless.

What's saddest is how Albano fell from grace into the pit of paper heroism. He went with the best of intentions to aid a noble cause. Somewhere along the line, the cause and the applause got horribly mixed up and Albano could no longer discern the difference between nobility and notoriety. When he wasn't even aware it was happening, Albano changed from a man to a courtier.

By now, almost everyone knows what happened. Albano renewed his friendship with Cyndi Lauper, a rock star whose charm lies in the fact that she's unable to conceive of a world



I had hoped that Lou Albano would be strong enough to resist the lure of public approval. It's sad to see the Captain shaking hands with Hulk Hogan.

where there may be more complex problems than those faced by a young adolescent. The singer came to Albano and asked him to help her raise money for research to cure multiple sclerosis, a good and worthy cause. Albano, being a decent man, couldn't refuse. A generous human being, Albano has always been willing to lend his celebrity to a worthy endeavor.

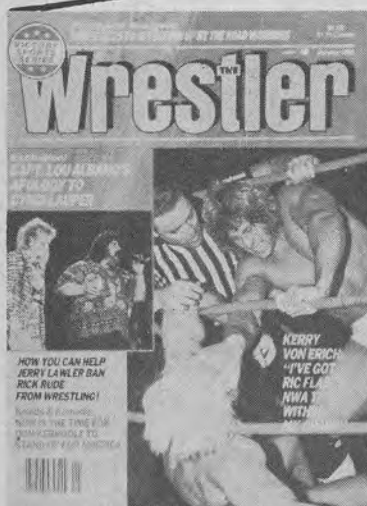
And now we come to the sorrow and the pity. As he so richly deserved, Albano received a good deal of admiration for his work. For a man who has been publicly despised for decades, this must have been an awesome experience. Nobody in wrestling today has courageously defied the fans for so long as has Albano. Though we may criticize and mourn his new direction, nobody has earned the

right to insult the man. His strength has been phenomenal. That it finally gave out should not come as a surprise, but a tragedy. After raising the monies and being lauded for his work, Albano found he needed that approval. Life is so much easier when you're doing what the world demands.

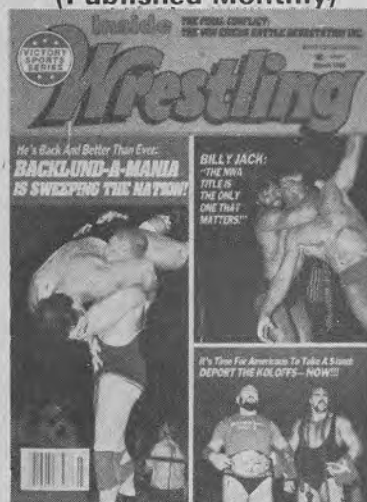
So Albano turned on the people who knew him best and respected him most. Instead of being his own man, he now follows the dictates of the fans. He is the new pet of those who demand conformity in wrestling. His genius has been sacrificed on the altar of fashion. Those who need other people to do their thinking for them are once again reassured that the individual only needs to see the light to return to the fold.

The tragedy is that we have lost
(Continued on page 56)

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THE INSIDER

By **Eddie Ellner**

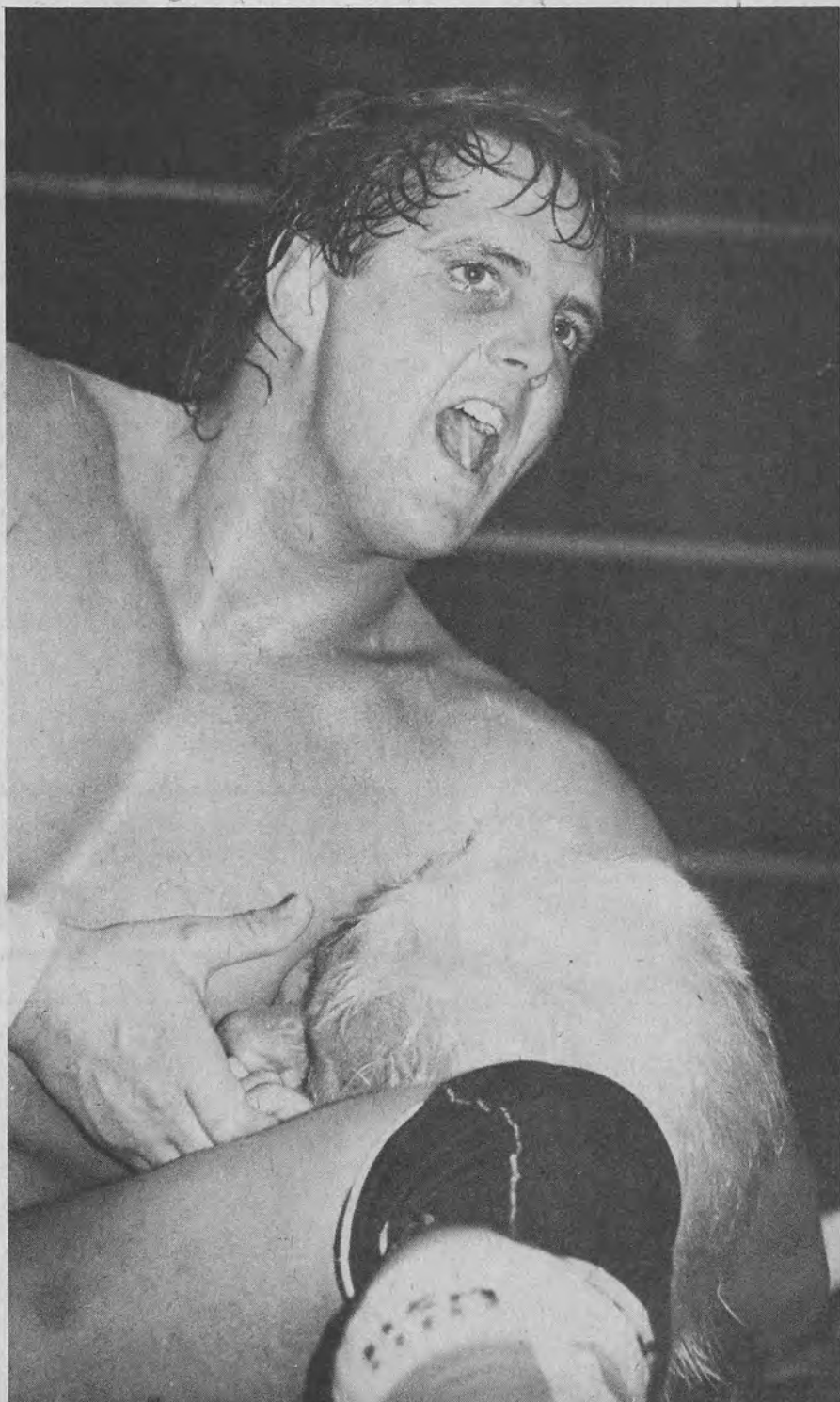
I REMEMBER TALKING with Matt Brock at a journalism symposium sponsored by my university. I attended one of those West Coast football factories where the classrooms seem to exist only to facilitate the athletic department, although every once in a while the academic end would get it together and offer us non-scholarship students something worthwhile. This was one of those rare occasions. Like any aspiring journalist, I held Matt Brock in a reverence bordering on awe, a booze-guzzling myth, a grain-distilled icon. Suddenly, I, who hadn't the syntax to write even a bad story, found myself rubbing shoulders with The Man, smelling his sour breath up close and personal.

I introduced myself; he remained polite but indifferent. I asked him, suddenly, "What's the secret, man?" My sincerity and absolute naivete must have wormed their way into one of the few remaining cracks in his guard. He didn't bark, he didn't turn away. Instead he took a swallow of some of his years and through faded eyes told me, "Kid don't fall for pose. If it ain't clean, don't eat it, understand?" I nodded at the wisdom of his words although I didn't understand what the hell he was talking about. He accepted my nod and walked away.

That was almost six years ago. Since then, this feeling of uneasiness that I call my life has taken me on some

(Continued on page 64)

"The Insider's" new author, Eddie Ellner, would like to see Chris Adams become a world champion. No, we do not have another Dan Shocket in the magazine!



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JUNE 1982

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. **PLUS:** Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. **PLUS:** Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. **PLUS:** Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. **PLUS:** Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. **PLUS:** Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. **PLUS:** Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. **PLUS:** Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. **PLUS:** Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. **PLUS:** Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. **PLUS:** Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. **PLUS:** Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. **PLUS:** Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

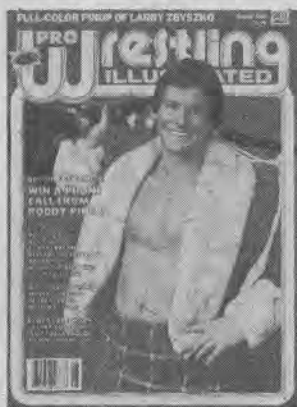
July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. **PLUS:** Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. **PLUS:** Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. **PLUS:** Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. **PLUS:** Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. **PLUS:** Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



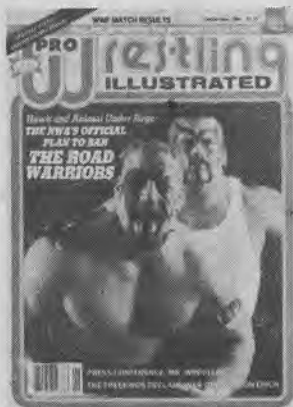
AUGUST 1983

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. **PLUS:** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. **PLUS:** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. **PLUS:** Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. **PLUS:** Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.



SEPTEMBER 1984

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. **PLUS:** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. **PLUS:** JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. **PLUS:** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. **SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The PWI Years.**

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. **PLUS:** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. **PLUS:** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. **PLUS:** Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. **PLUS:** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR POSTER: Magnum T.A. Cover story: Rick Martel. **PLUS:** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Roddy Piper, Ric Flair vs. Kerry Von Erich; **PLUS:** 1984—The Year In Review.



MARCH 1985

April 1985/COLOR POSTER: Ronnie Garvin. Cover story: Jimmy Snuka. **PLUS:** Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

May 1985/COLOR POSTER: Road Warriors. **SPECIAL TAG TEAM ISSUE!** Cover story: Fabulous Ones & Rock 'n' Roll Express. **PLUS:** Windham & Rotundo, Von Erich & Billy Haynes, **PWI Rates Top 15 teams.**

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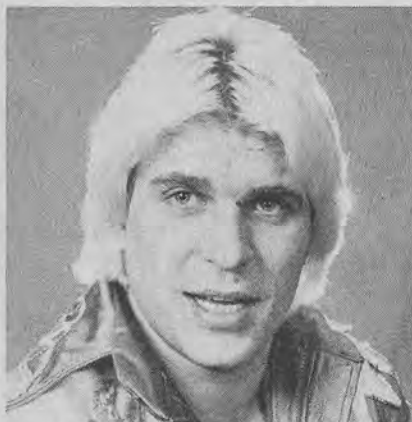
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PITTSBURGH, PA

By Dean Grande



RIC FLAIR
vs.
TOMMY RICH

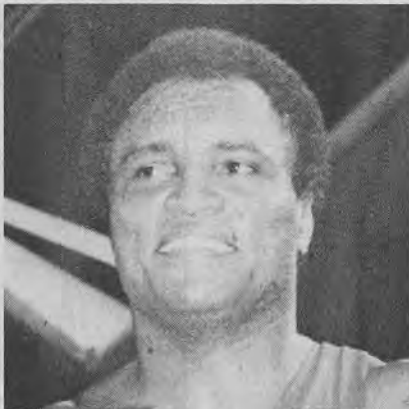


Flair and Rich brought their rivalry into Pittsburgh and electrified the crowd with a thrilling title match. For the first 10 minutes, both grapplers carefully traded armbars, headlocks, and other scientific maneuvers. At the 25-minute mark, Flair applied the figure-four leglock, which Rich managed to reverse. Flair broke it and then both men flailed away at each other until the 37-minute mark, when Flair won the match after chopping Rich in the throat.

OTHER BOUTS: Superstar Billy Graham defeated Mike Davis ... Dusty Rhodes beat Joel Deaton ... Don Kernodle and Manny Fernandez defeated Ivan and Nikita Koloff by disqualification ... Magnum T.A. beat Kareem Muhammad.

SAN JUAN, PR

By Javier Fernandez



CARLOS COLON
vs.
KILLER BROOKS



This WWC title bout was bloody from almost the outset. Colon showered Brooks with punches, kicks, and headbutts that opened up huge gashes on Brooks' head. Brooks returned the punishment, as he viciously flung Colon to the canvas and kicked him. Brooks tried to bodyslam Colon, but the champ used the top rope for leverage and fell on Brooks for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: The Shepherders beat The Invaders for the WWC North America tag team championship ... King Tonga vs. Randy Savage ended in double-disqualification ... Pedro Morales beat Taras Bulba ... Kid Chocolate beat Little Tokyo ... Hercules Ayala drew with Dory Funk Jr.

BEAUMONT, TX

By Joey Miguez



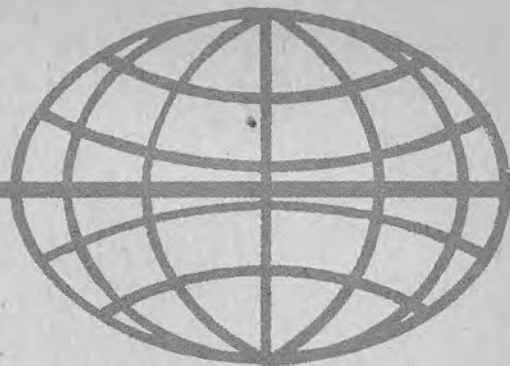
HACKSAW DUGGAN
vs.
STEVE WILLIAMS



This bloody cage match between former friends saw Williams attack Duggan before he could even enter the cage. The two were battling back and forth, trading advantages, when Williams captured Duggan in a Russian backbreaker. "Dr. Death" ventured too close to the cage, however, allowing Duggan to reverse the backbreaker and drop Williams for a bloody and convincing victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Buddy Landell beat Butch Reed ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Ted Dibiase and Sheik Hercules Hernandez ... Brad Armstrong defeated Gino Hernandez ... Kamala beat Billy Jack ... Terry Daniels beat Jack Victory ... Chavo and Hector Guerrero beat Tim Horner and Shawn Michaels.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



QUEENS, NY

By Vinnie Montalto



BOB BACKLUND

vs.

THE MASKED SUPERSTAR

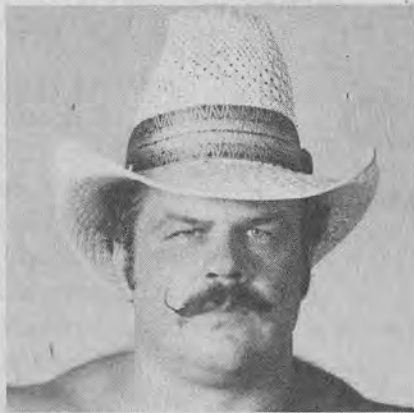


The return of Bob Backlund to the East Coast had the crowd screaming. The former WWF champ aggressively attacked The Masked Superstar with a series of scientific maneuvers. Superstar grabbed Backlund's head and tossed him out of the ring. He then went out after Backlund and banged his head against the press table. The referee disqualified The Masked Superstar, giving Backlund the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors defeated Sgt. Slaughter and Jim Brunzell ... Larry Zbyszko and Curt Hennig wrestled to a draw ... Baron Von Raschke beat Sheik Adan Al-Kaissie by disqualification ... Captain America beat Manny DeSaurve.

MOUNTAIN CITY, TN

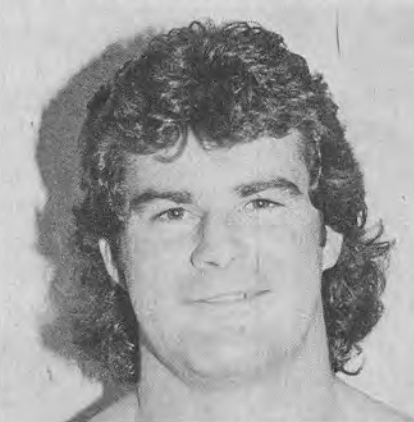
by Tommy McConnell



RON BASS

vs.

BRIAN ADIDAS

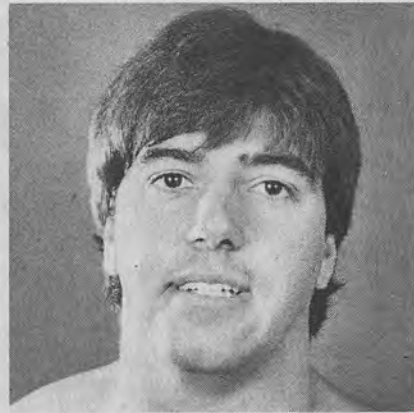


Bass was in control for most of this Mid-Atlantic title match. He tossed his challenger out of the ring and slammed his head into the ringpost. Bass then suplexed Adidas and rolled him over for the pin by pulling on his trunks. The ref didn't see this and Bass came away with the victory and retained his title.

OTHER BOUTS: Black Bart defeated Brett Hart ... Keith Larsen beat Joel Deaton ... Tommy Lane beat Mike Fever ... Ivan and Nikita Koloff defeated Mike Davis and Buzz Tyler.

VANCOUVER, BC

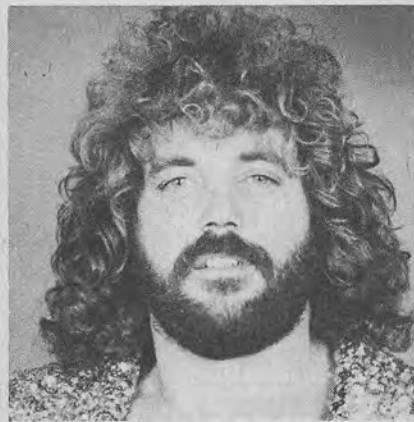
By Bruce Conroy



RICK MARTEL

vs.

JIM GARVIN



Garvin took an early advantage, bringing Martel to his knees with a series of forearms and kicks. Martel retaliated with some dazzling aerial maneuvers. At the 30-minute mark, Garvin applied an atomic spinecrusher that sent both wrestlers hurtling to the mat in a pin position. As the ref counted three, Martel raised his shoulders and won the match.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors beat Curt Hennig and Jim Brunzell ... Jerry Blackwell beat The Masked Superstar by disqualification ... Nick Bockwinkel beat Jerry Morrow ... Baron Von Raschke drew with Steve Regal.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

display of brutality, DiBiase defeated Brad Armstrong to capture the North American heavyweight belt. DiBiase is the wrestling equivalent of Attila the Hun: He's tough and smart and successful, but he will go down in history as nothing more than a barbarian. His attack on the older Armstrong was completely uncalled for and he used very questionable tactics in defeating Brad Armstrong. Given the resilience and pride of the Armstrong family, we can count on both Brad and Bob exacting their due revenge from DiBiase.

HOUSTON, TX: More in the never-ending saga of Chris Adams and the Von Erich family. Kevin Von Erich and Adams staged a brutal war in The Summit. Each time I see these two main-eventers go at it, I'm convinced that one of them will be fatally injured. Never in all my years of coverage have I witnessed a feud escalate to such a life-threatening degree. This match saw Kevin Von Erich about to pin Adams, but Adams managed to slither toward the rope and drape his foot over it. The referee saw this and tapped Von Erich on the shoulder. Von Erich, thinking that he had won the match, jumped up in triumph, and was promptly super-kicked by Adams. To the disbelief of the crowd, Adams fell on Von Erich and scored a win. Also on the card were the Rock 'n' Roll Express, who along with Jose Lothario defeated Chavo and Hector Guerrero and Buddy Landell. I get a real kick out of watching those kids Rick Morton and Robert Gibson wrestle. It's like watching those late 1950 sitcoms like *My Three Sons* or *The Donna Reed Show* or *Father Knows Best*. Clean-cut America, lots of white teeth, smiles, young men having fun. Especially in contrast to the ugliness of the Von Erich-Adams feud.

TAMPA, FL: When you get to be my age you become very possessive of your old friends, since they're the only ones who know what the hell you're talking about when you say things like "Ah, it didn't *used* to be like that." So the next time you find yourself on your favorite barstool, do me a favor and hoist a few to the memory of my very good friend Eddie Graham, who died last month in



EDDIE GRAHAM

Tampa. For over 30 years, Eddie was a vital part of wrestling, first in the ring, then as a father to his son Mike, who he proudly guided to the Florida junior heavyweight title, and finally as the troubleshooter at Florida Championship Wrestling, a position that saw him assume many roles, from referee to analyst to promoter. However, Eddie will be remembered as much for his charitable work as he will for his wrestling. His work with the Florida Boy's Ranch/Girl's Villa is legendary. The Ranch has for years provided young boys and girls from broken homes with counseling, shelter, food, and love. The man who wrestled in front of thousands of fans night after night for years never lost his sense of community responsibility. Eddie was adored in his home town and will be painfully missed, but never forgotten. If anyone wishes to donate a few dollars to the Ranch and continue Eddie's fine work, the address is: Eddie Graham Memorial Fund; c/o Florida Sheriff's Youth Fund; Boy's Ranch, Florida, 32060. And remember, tonight, when you're filling your tankard, to raise your glass and remember Eddie Graham, a good wrestler and a good man. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month, we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers.

IRON MIKE SHARPE

Iron Mike Sharpe, the Mid-America champion in the Mid-Southern area, still wears a "protective brace" on his arm and still hates being called "wimp." Brought into the Mid-Southern area by Jimmy Hart, Sharpe has become one of Hart's most powerful weapons in his ongoing feud with Jerry "The King" Lawler.



KEVIN SULLIVAN

After being the most powerful force on the Florida wrestling scene for so long, the satan-worshiping Kevin Sullivan has left the Sunshine State and brought his entourage with him. Sullivan, aided by Fallen Angel, has been wrestling in the Southwest area, as well as in Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

DINO BRAVO

This popular Canadian favorite continues to thrill Montreal area wrestling fans with his exciting brand of wrestling. Soon Bravo will be able to thrill AWA and NWA wrestling fans as well: Bravo has signed a series of open contracts with promoters of the *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* television program, which recognizes stars of both the NWA and the AWA.



TERRY FUNK

Following a long absence from the ring, this former NWA World heavyweight champion has begun wrestling once again in St. Louis, where he has been feuding with U.S. heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel. Terry Funk has also signed with promoters of *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* for a series of matches throughout the Northeast. □

INSIDE WRESTLING

106

capsule profile

MICHAEL HAYES



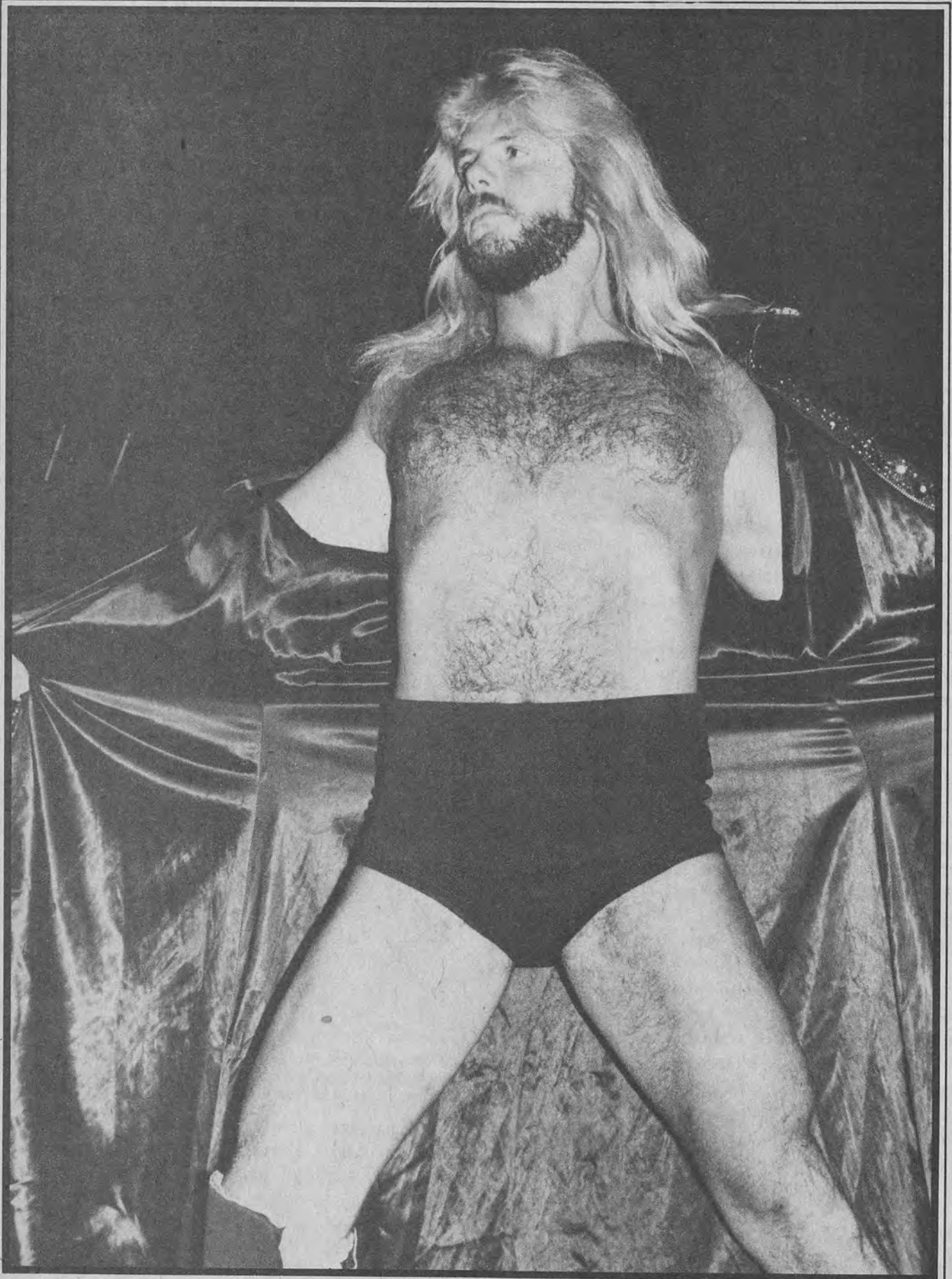
Michael Hayes locks up the hardest head in wrestling, that belonging to The Missing Link. Hayes will wrestle as a single, but he prefers to be with his Freebird partners, Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy. Soon, Hayes says, The Freebirds will reunite.

FREEBIRD MICHAEL HAYES is the leader of one of wrestling's greatest triumverates, The Fabulous Freebirds ("Me and my Freebird brothers Bamm Bamm [Terry Gordy] and Jack [Buddy Roberts] don't stand for no guff from no one, brother!") ... The Freebirds formed their partnership in the Mid-South area and later moved to the Georgia area ("We kick butts wherever they need to be kicked!") ... Became notorious in the World Class area as a result of The Freebirds' giant feud with the Von Erichs, with the World Class six-man tag team title changing hands several times between the two teams ("Still can't understand why the Texas fans would want to cheer those wimps instead of us hard-rockin' 'Birds!") ... Feuded wildly with Kerry Von Erich for about a year and a half ("I beat him back a dozen or more times, but the sucker kept coming back at me for more punishment!") ... Recorded a song called "Badstreet U.S.A." and starred in a rock video of the song, which also featured his Freebird brothers Gordy and Roberts, and "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin ("That's right, brother, the 'Birds were born on Badstreet! The further down the block you go, the badder it gets, and we live in the last house on the right, you catch my meaning?") ... Currently

wrestling in Florida where he has been joined by Roberts in a feud against Jim Neidhardt, Krusher Khrushchev, and The Saint ("We 'Birds don't like these kind of scum talking down our great country") ... Is looking for matches against Ric Flair, and has already received a title shot against the NWA World champion ("If you thought that

the NWA belt looked good around Kerry Von Erich's waist, brother, wait 'til you see it wrapped around my gorgeous body!") ... Hopes that Gordy will soon travel to Florida to reunite The Fabulous Freebirds once again ("The three of us together again? Freebird Fantasia is gonna fly high, brother—believe it!")

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



MICHAEL HAYES

THE KOLOFFS WILL BE THE NEXT NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS!

By Dan Shocket

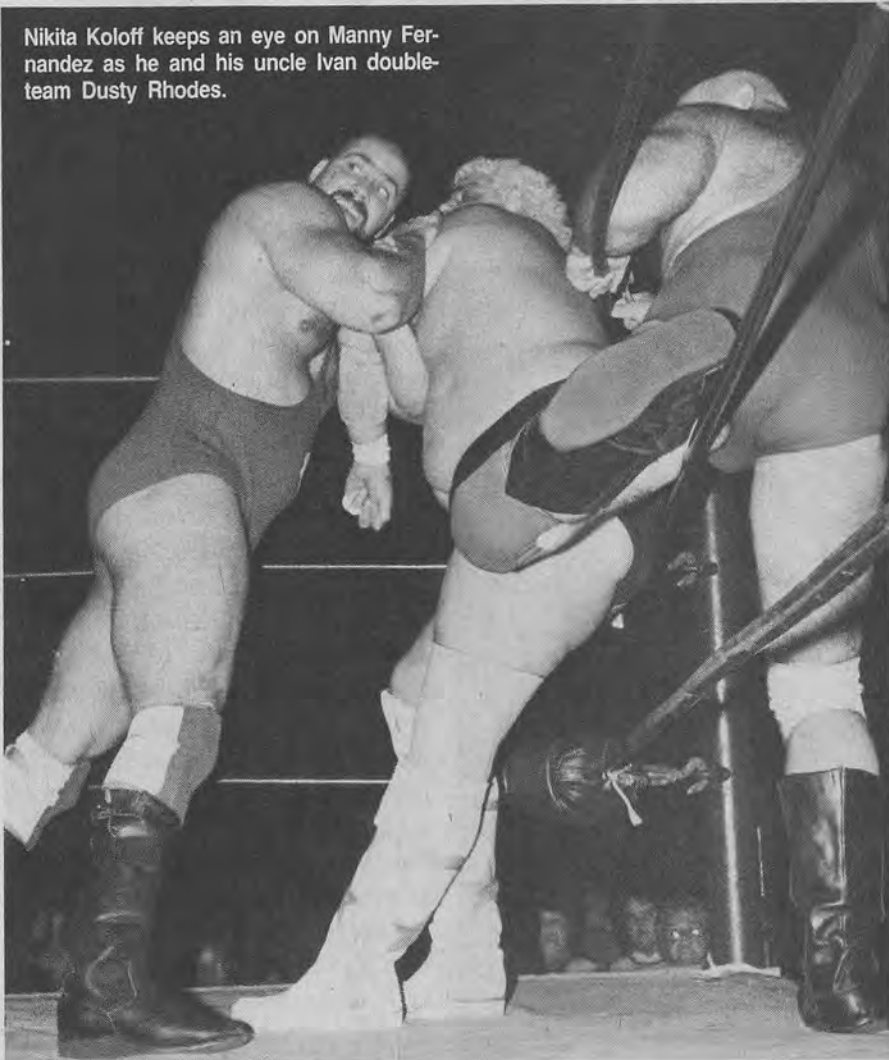
Photos by Eddie Cheslock

DUSTY RHODES RECENTLY announced to anyone who'd care to listen that 1985 was going to be the year he will recapture the NWA belt. While no one, least of all Ric Flair, is going to lose any sleep over such braggardly jive, there is implicit in Rhodes' words some interesting conclusions to be drawn.

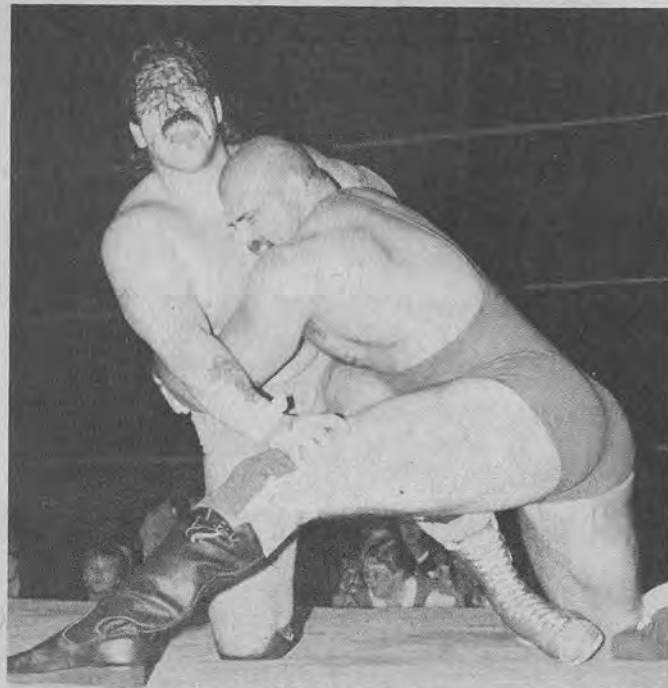
When a wrestler mounts a concerted effort for a world title, it automatically precludes his involvement in anything but his pursuit of that title. Only if a wrestler hunts the belt with the intensity of a religious zealot can he seriously expect to be successful. It's hard to imagine Dusty Rhodes approaching anything but his meals with such intensity, and an outgrowth of his decision has other, more severe consequences.

As you know, Rhodes and Manny Fernandez are the current NWA World tag team champions. Their hold on the title, tenuous at best, is now being further undermined by Rhodes' quest for the singles championship. It's a shame that such an ecologically sound combination as Fernandez and Rhodes will soon be forced to part company. Their downfall, however, is

Nikita Koloff keeps an eye on Manny Fernandez as he and his uncle Ivan double-team Dusty Rhodes.



Most wrestling experts grudgingly admit that the tag team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff are potentially the most dangerous tag team in the sport. Assistant Editor Dan Shocket, a known supporter of rulebreakers, is certain that the Koloffs will soon dethrone NWA World tag team champions Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez



Nikita's bearhug is so powerful, it actually forces blood to spurt from Fernandez's wounds (above and below). Koloff's armlock momentarily has Dusty in too much pain to swing his free arm (right).



inevitable. Ever since the veteran ring-master Ivan Koloff engaged the superhuman forces of his nephew Nikita, he has practically assured himself of the World tag team title. Rhodes and Fernandez merely have it out on loan.

Rarely has wrestling seen a creature the likes of Nikita Koloff. Embodying the strength of Samson, the aggressiveness of Napoleon, and the viciousness of Attila the Hun, Nikita has enjoyed a rookie year of unprecedented success. To think that Koloff is but 23 *and still growing* gives one pause to think of the wonders of the universe. To think that he is being trained by possibly the most experienced and crafty wrestler in history is more threatening than nuclear deployment.

For the first time in his long career, Ivan Koloff can be called smug. "Back in Russia," he said, "Nikita used to wrestle a little bear. When word in the village got out, everyone would run to the square and watch. Nikita's father, my brother, would go around and take bets from people who were sure that the bear would defeat Nikita. After Nikita pinned the little bear, his father would bring in a bigger bear, and then a bigger bear, until Nikita was wrestling black bears that were eight and

nine feet tall and weighed over 500 pounds. Nikita's father got very rich with Nikita in Russia. Now I'm going to get very rich with Nikita in America.

"Nobody, not even I, understands how powerful Nikita is. When we train together, I must caution him not to hurt *me*, and I am one of strongest men in all of wrestling. After wrestling 500-pound bears, do you think Nikita even notices the men he wrestles? They're playthings, little dolls, that stand in Nikita's way of success. And they all will be destroyed."

The thought of the Koloffs in the same ring with Rhodes and Fernandez begs for comparisons. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre, Little Big Horn, and the Six-Day war immediately come to mind. What Nikita Koloff will do to the out-of-shape Mr. Rhodes might throw U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations back to the cold war days. As some of the more perceptive of you fans might have gathered from my "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" columns, I do not dislike wrestlers simply because they are what some simpleminded fans call rulebreakers. This is because that particular genre of wrestler is more talented, more colorful, and more intelligent

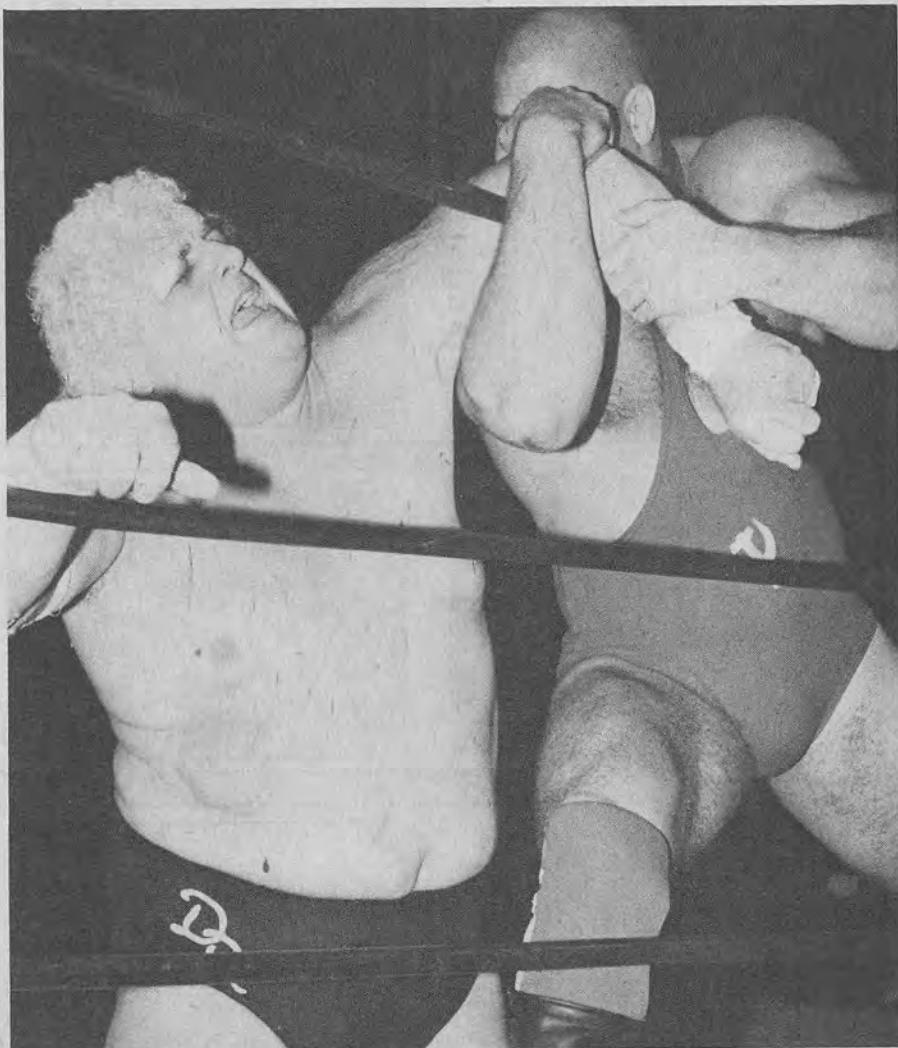
than the wimpy sacks of puke hiding under that odious moniker, scientific wrestler. This, however, is not a case of rulebreaker vs. scientific wrestler, or Russian vs. American, or white star vs. black glove. No, this is as plain as white bread, as predictable as sunrise and sunset, as inevitable as winter snow. Ivan and Nikita Koloff will be the next NWA World tag team champions, whether or not Dusty Rhodes commits himself to the pursuit of the NWA World title or not. In fact, if Rhodes should have a change of heart and decide to dedicate his life to the defense of his tag team title, it would make no difference. As soon as Manny the Bull and Dusty the Cow step into the same ring with the Koloffs, they will be turned into so much ground beef, very little of it lean I might add.

What really raises the hair on my neck is the prospect of the NWA champion Koloffs, meeting the AWA champions The Road Warriors. If such a matchup occurred, it would be time to lock all your doors, hide all your children, and move to a different time zone. Such a match is destined for a time capsule, so future generations might see what state-of-the-art wrestling in the '80s was like.

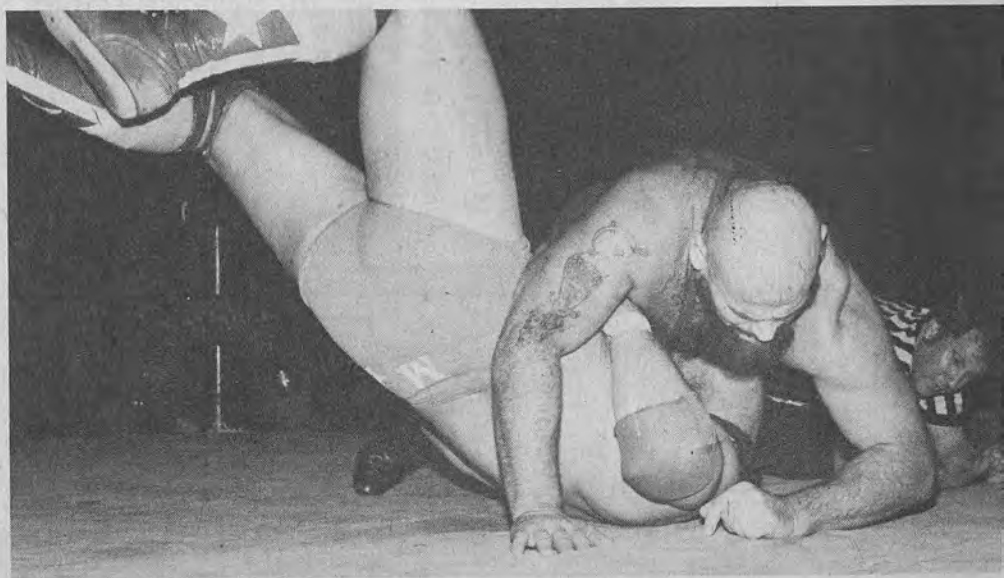
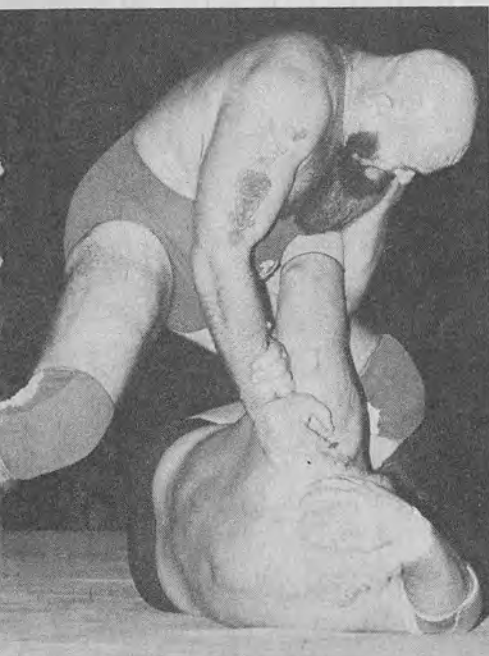
For now, though, we must be content in watching the maturation of Nikita Koloff, as he metamorphoses

from a hulking rookie to an experienced human locomotive. In the hands of Ivan Koloff, there is no telling what ingenious ways of destruction Nikita will master.

One thing most knowledgeable wrestling observers agree upon, though. If Ivan Koloff can win the tag team championship with Don Kernodle, he can do it with Nikita. □



Nikita continues the attack against Dusty's left arm (above). He then tags up with his uncle, who follows the same strategy (left). Fernandez kicks out just in time to save the title (below). How much longer can Manny and Dusty hold on?



INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

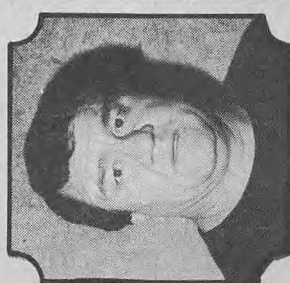
These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

For period ended January 29, 1985

National Wrestling Alliance

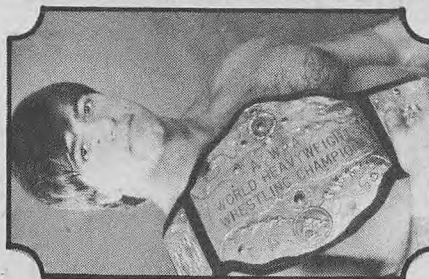


World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

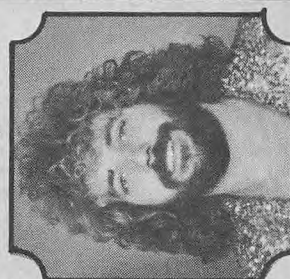


1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

American Wrestling Association

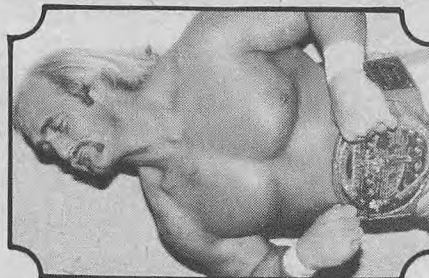


World Champion:
RIK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec



1—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

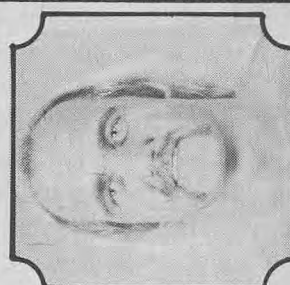


1—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

Most Popular Wrestlers

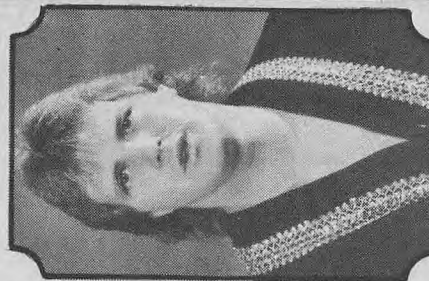


1—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX



2—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

Most Hated Wrestlers

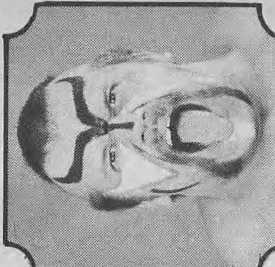


1—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford, England



2—JOHN STUDD
364, Washington, DC

Tag Teams



1—THE ROAD WARRIORS

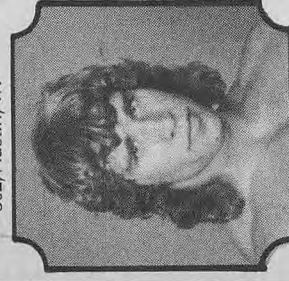




2—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA



3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX



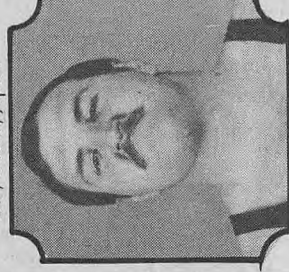
4—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX



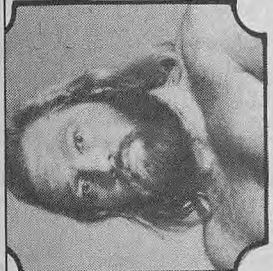
2—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA



3—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan



4—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, NC



2—JOHN STUDD
364, Washington, DC



3—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX



4—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR



3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX



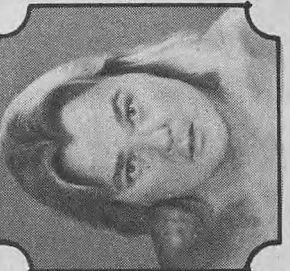
4—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX



5—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec



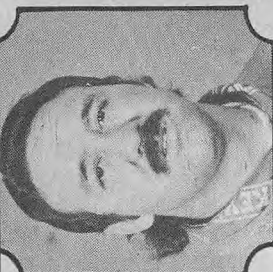
3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX



4—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA



5—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX



2—DUSTY RHODES &
MANNY FERNANDEZ



3—BARRY WINDHAM &
MIKE ROTUNDO



4—DENNIS CONDREY
& BOBBY EATON

5—RICK MORTON &
ROBERT GIBSON

6—RON BASS &
BLACK BART

7—MARK & JAY
YOUNGBLOOD

8—IVAN & NIKITA
KOLOFF

9—TOMMY ROGERS &
BOBBY FULTON

10—OLE ANDERSON &
T-BOLT PATTERSON

5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

7—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN

8—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

9—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands

10—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

5—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

6—MASKED
SUPERSTAR
282, Atlanta, GA

7—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA

8—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England

9—JIM BRUNZELL
225, Minneapolis, MN

10—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN

5—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

6—BRIAN BLAIR
237, Tampa, FL

7—COWBOY RON BASS
265, Pampa, TX

8—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

9—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN

10—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

The Exclusive Story:

WHY SGT. SLAUGHTER HAD TO LEAVE THE WWF

By Bill Apter

THE MİRRORED SUNGLASSES reflected my face the same way a funhouse mirror might: distorted and stretched. But I was trying to look beyond the mirrors, into the steely eyes behind the glasses.

I couldn't.

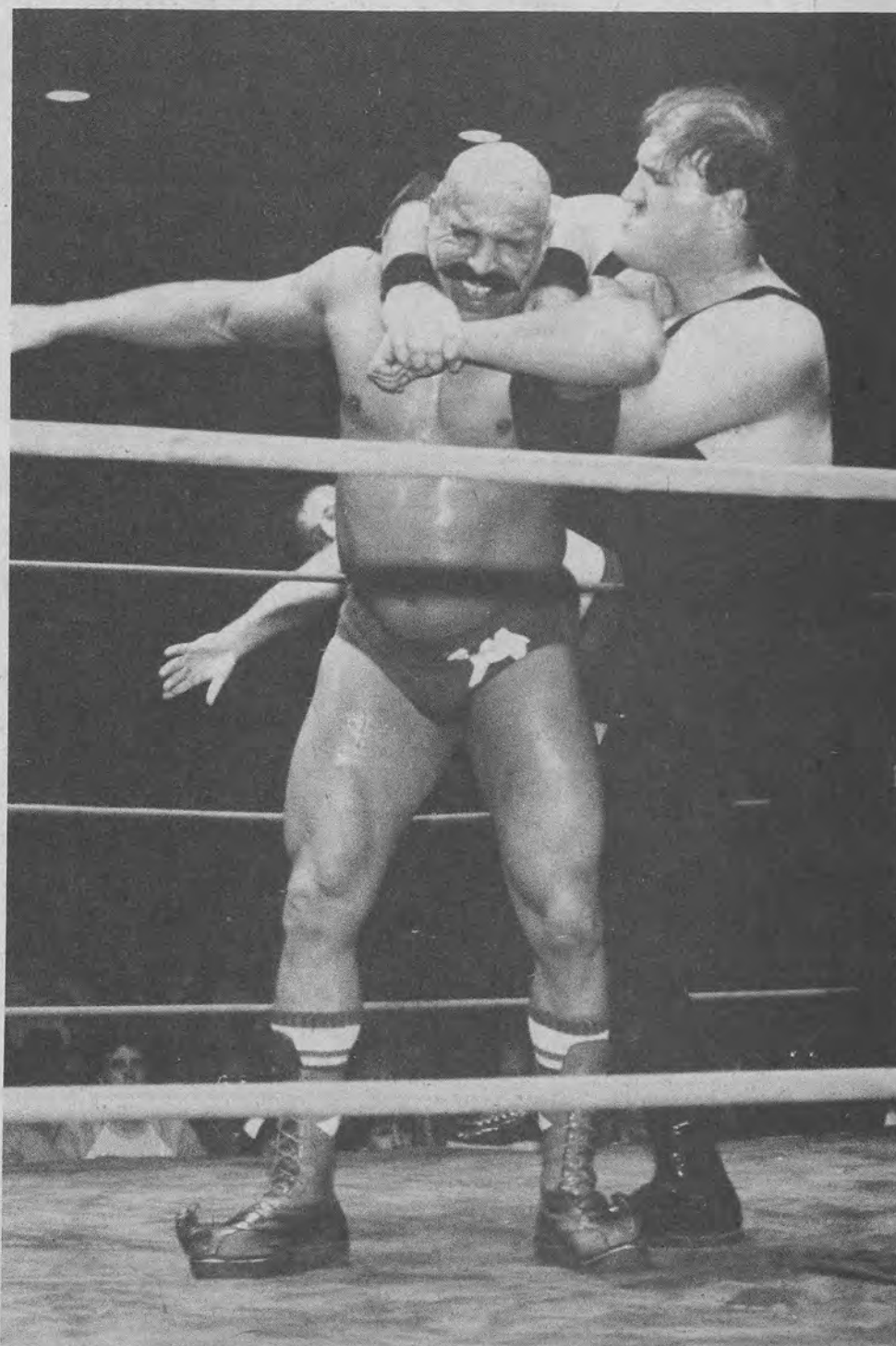
But I knew without seeing that those eyes contained an intensity of purpose and a devotion to the United States of America that few men anywhere possess. I knew without asking that the man behind those glasses was the flesh and blood embodiment of American patriotism.

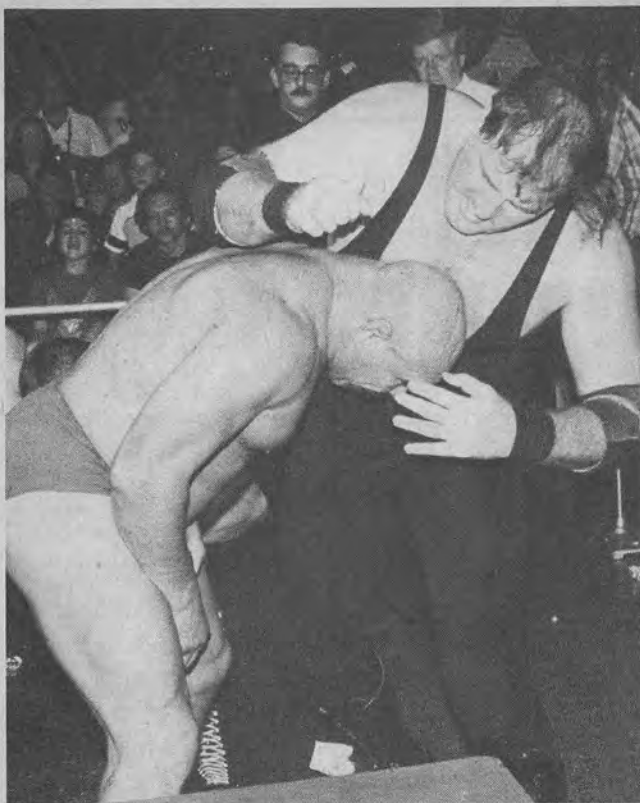
I knew without doubting, for the man I was looking at was Sgt. Slaughter.

I was in New York City to present Slaughter with the award plaque for 1984's "Inspirational Wrestler of the Year." That award was determined in our "Achievement '84" year-end poll of the fans in our sister magazine *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

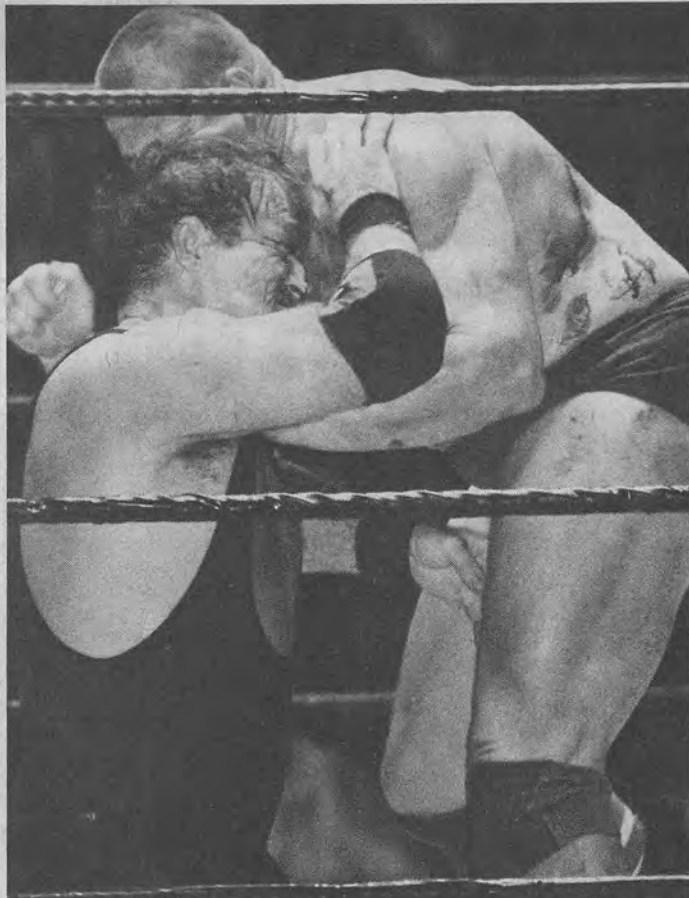
Slaughter was in New York to receive that award, and to explain his recent departure from the WWF to sportscaster Spencer Christian and the New York area sports fans in a report on the five o'clock newscast on New York's WABC-TV.

"I demolished everybody in the WWF," Slaughter explained to me before going on the air. "Nikolai Volkoff? If that slime had any brains, he'd be back in Siberia licking his wounds right now. And The Iron Sheik? I beat the scum more times than I want to think about. I beat him





Sgt. Slaughter did a service to the WWF by defeating such despicable men as The Iron Sheik (above and opposite left) and Nikolai Volkoff (right and bottom). But he was not rewarded with a title shot.



Though 1985 is barely underway, the most shocking and significant development in wrestling for the entire year may be the fact that Sgt. Slaughter has left the WWF. In this exclusive story, Slaughter discusses the reasons why he left, and what he hopes to achieve in the coming months



in everything from a regular sanctioned match to a series of boot camp death matches.

"But the problem now is where do I go from here?" Slaughter said. "Look, I beat Volkoff, I beat The Iron Sheik, I beat everyone I stepped into that ring and faced. But I'm not about to stand at ease while I watch other wrestlers get title shots. My victories against Volkoff and Sheik won't get me a title match. I'll never get a shot at Hulk Hogan as long as he's champion; the WWF promoters and officials just don't sanction those kinds of matches.

"That's why I decided to join the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group," Slaughter continued. "Pro Wrestling U.S.A. recognizes both the NWA and AWA World champions, and I'll have a chance to get title matches against both Ric Flair and Rick Martel. Flair and Martel have both signed open contracts to wrestle me. All that needs to be ironed out are the details of when and where."

Though I couldn't see Slaughter's eyes as he spoke, I could see the rest of his face. And that classic Slaughter

(Continued on page 62)

ANOTHER GARVIN MIND-GAME?

WILL RICK MARTEL TRADE THE AWA BELT FOR JIM GARVIN'S VALET?



Jim Garvin is congratulated by Precious as he lifts the AWA World championship belt. Later, the decision would be reversed and the belt returned to Rick Martel.

RICK MARTEL TOSSED his clothes into a duffel bag, threw on a warmup suit, a pair of sunglasses, and made a quick exit out a side door of the dressing room. He was in his car and out the lot before anyone could ask him a question. His back-patting fans were nowhere in sight. Gone was his characteristic match-winning grin. His usually well-catered postmatch press conference was cancelled. Though he had just successfully defended his AWA World title, Martel had the look of a loser. Though he had just turned back the challenge of a wily and unpredictable Jim Garvin, Martel was the one who left the arena troubled.

The other dressing room spoke a different story. Reporters milled about, snapping questions in between bites of cold cuts and goblets of champagne. The buzz of celebration filled the room. Clearly, the roles were reversed. Jim Garvin, who by all accounts was soundly beaten only moments before, was carrying on as if he had just captured the World championship. His valet, the lusty Precious, danced exotically about the room. After 10 minutes of continued merriment, Garvin mounted a podium and requested quiet. He rased his arms pontifically and began:

"Friends, ladies and gentlemen of the free press, beloved companion and guiding beacon of my

Soft-spoken Rick Martel has earned the respect of the wrestling world by letting his wrestling speak for him. Now the AWA World champion is facing the challenge of Gorgeous Jim Garvin and his dangerous valet, Precious, a duo determined to snatch Martel's belt by focusing the champ's attentions on things having nothing to do with wrestling. Can Jim Garvin think his way to the championship?



life, my darling Precious, let me introduce myself. My name is Gorgeous Jim Garvin and I am the next AWA heavyweight champion."

At the announcement, many of the reporters returned to their sandwiches, having heard the braggardly claims of better men than Jim Garvin for years. Precious, however, beamed as if she were in the presence of a god. Gorgeous Jim, having allowed his initial words to sink in, continued:

"The reason I am to be the next champion of the world has nothing at all to do with wrestling, however." Here Garvin paused, giving the reporters a moment to drop their sandwiches and scramble for their notebooks and recorders. He went on, in complete control of the room. "It should be clear to all you professional critics and analyzers that I am on my way to the title. The only thing that can—and has—stopped me is the ugly collusion that exists between Rick Martel, the promoters, and the referees. They will not let me win the title in the ring. Tonight, as you all saw, I had Martel pinned several times, but each time the ref refused to count. And I hope no one has forgotten our title match last month, where I won the belt, and in one of the grossest displays of partiality in the history of professional sports, the match decision was reversed by a group of officials who were



Top: Garvin applies a camel clutch against Martel. Above: Rick rattles Garvin with a spinecrusher. Below: Gorgeous Jim applies the sleeper.



not even in attendance.

"I became worried that despite my superior talents, I would never see the belt around my waist. Then my Precious over here came up with a plan that has succeeded where my ring talents have failed. You see, ladies and gentlemen, because of her unyielding devotion to me and her desire to see me assume my place as the champion of the world, Precious has agreed to trade herself to Rick Martel in exchange for his AWA World championship!"

The room became abuzz again. Reporters scribbled wildly, not wanting to miss a single word. A few thoughts permeated the dressing room walls: If this is just another one of Garvin's psychological charades, then why did Martel leave the arena so quickly? Why was he so withdrawn after a victory? Why isn't he here to defend himself?

Garvin explained the bizarre situation: "Apparently, Rick Martel has been in love with Precious for quite some time now. I can't fault the man for falling for a woman as intelligent and beautiful as my Precious, but rather than making his intentions known, like an adult, he instead has sent her surreptitious love letters for the past year, declaring his undying love. The more she ignored him, the more desperate he became until,

(Continued on page 58)

HOTSEAT

CAPT. LOU ALBANO:

"I'LL MAKE PIPER PAY!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY BILL APTER

FOR MORE THAN 15 years, Capt. Lou Albano was recognized throughout the world as one of the most notorious managers in professional wrestling. His management of such tag teams as The Mongols, The Blackjacks, The Moondogs, Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, and The Samoans earned him a reputation as one of the most hated men in the entire sport.

That reputation has turned around dramatically in recent months, however, as Albano has become heavily involved in fundraising efforts for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. As national co-chairman for fundraising along with rock star Cyndi Lauper, Albano helped raise over \$4 million in 1984 for the fight against M.S.

During a recent awards ceremony in Madison Square Garden, Albano and Lauper were honored for their contributions to the M.S. fundraising drive. In a brutal sneak-attack, Albano was hit in the head with his award plaque by Roddy Piper. To the fans' surprise and approval, Hulk Hogan came to Albano's defense. In recent weeks, Albano has been claiming that he has "seen the light," largely due to Lauper

and Hogan's efforts on his behalf. It is clear that Albano has made an astonishing transition from hated manager to prominent fan favorite.

Inside Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter recently spoke with Albano about these developments in his career, and what the immediate future might have in store for him—and for Piper!

“

I've got to admit that you've got to pay back for what you've done in the past. I have humiliated many a person in my life, so I guess it's my turn to pay back.

”

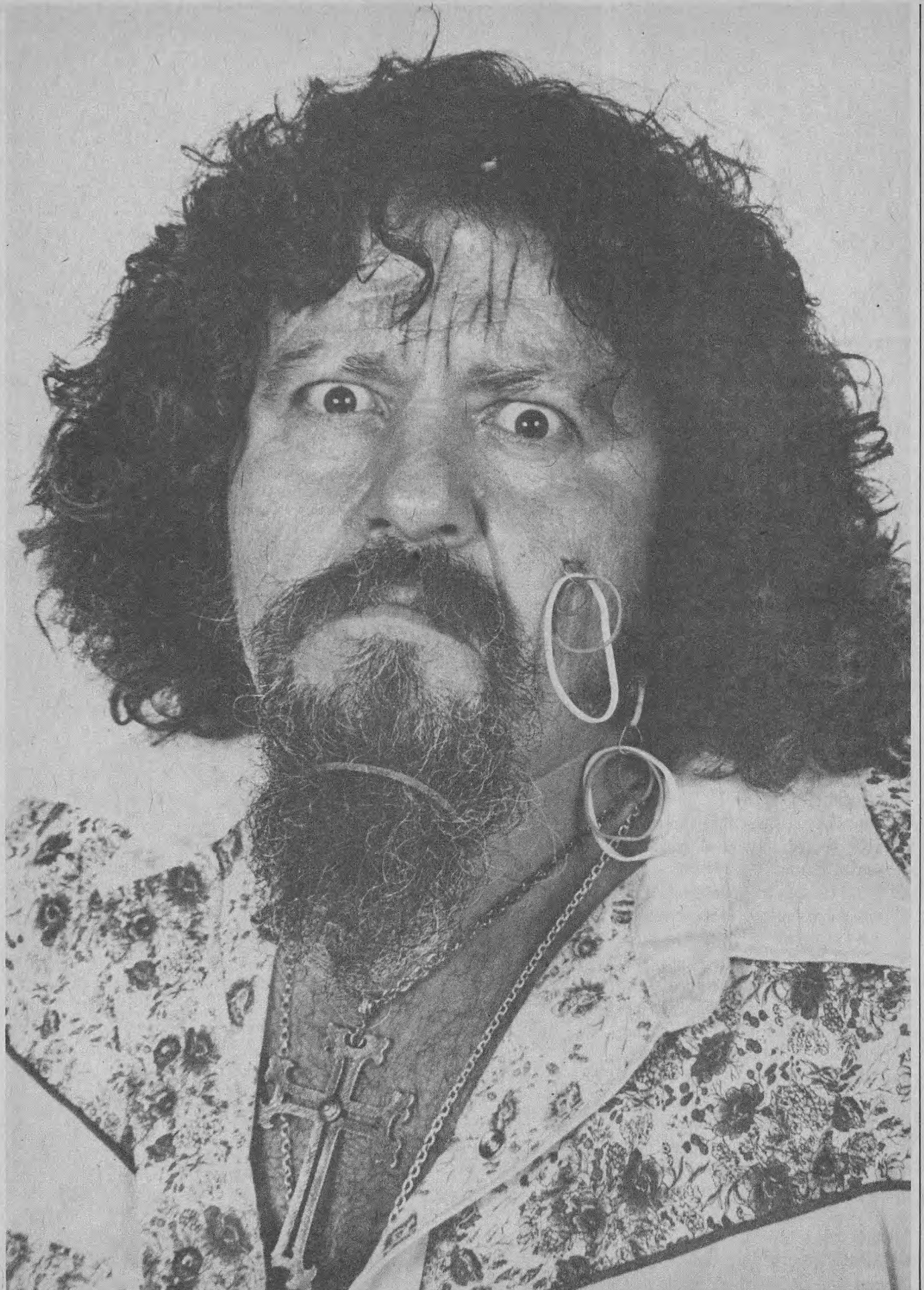
Q: First of all, Lou, do you regret anything at all from those early days of your career when Capt. Lou Albano was the most hated individual in professional wrestling?

A: Well, Bill, I really can't say I regret. The past is the past, and we're here at the future now, and there are different times and differ-

ent ways, and perhaps now, Apter, you can say I've seen the light. They were presenting me a trophy in Madison Square Garden, Bill, and I was very humiliated. For the first time in my life I was kind of ashamed to be a professional wrestler. Not because I was maimed and hurt by Roddy Piper, but because he took it upon himself to put a kick to Cyndi Lauper, to pick up David Wolff and slam him, and the way he acted it made me kind of ashamed to be a professional wrestler, and I looked back, and I said, "What have you been doing all these years?" I mean, I felt bad. I felt *that* bad.

Q: You used the word "humiliation." Do you feel that you've ever humiliated people to the extent that you've been humiliated now?

A: Well, Bill, I've got to admit that it's true. I've got to admit that you've got to pay back for what you've done in the past. I have humiliated many a person in my life, so I guess it's my time to pay back. I will tell you right now, I want to make one statement:





“

For 30 years I've been around, and no little punk like Roddy Piper, a little sissified punk with a skirt on, is gonna drive me away from that ring.

”

Roddy Piper, for what you did to Capt. Lou Albano, you are definitely gonna pay! I've been beaten time and time again, Bill, but I'm back up there, I'm man enough to come back and do what I'm capable of doing. I'm still here. And I'll make Piper pay.

Q: Why do you think that Piper did what he did to you at Madison Square Garden?

A: Well, I'll tell you one thing, I'm still tough enough to be back in that ring. For 30 years I've been around, and no little punk like Roddy Piper, a little sissified punk with a skirt on, is gonna drive me away from that ring. I'm gonna get back at you, Roddy Piper, somehow, and if I don't, then some of my men will. Who my men will be I'm not gonna discuss at this time, I'm not gonna give away my strategy, but very shortly you will be seeing who my men will be, and you'll be very shocked and very surprised.

Q: Getting back to the original question, why do you think he did that



Above: Roddy Piper has already knocked Lou Albano and Cyndi Lauper unconscious, and now he directs his attention at Lauper's manager, Dave Wolff. Dick Clark, who was in the Madison Square Garden ring for the awards presentation, certainly didn't plan an evening like this! Below: Lauper has been a major factor in the Captain's turnaround.



to you at Madison Square Garden?

A: First of all, Roddy Piper was introduced to Cyndi Lauper some time ago through Capt. Lou Albano. I happen to be a personal friend of Cyndi Lauper's for quite some time, and having her introduced on "Piper's Pit" he would take more and more credit each week, and say that he, and "Piper's Pit," helped make Cyndi Lauper. This is a fallacy. If anyone helped Cyndi Lauper, I would like to feel that I helped her.

Q: You didn't write any of her songs as you originally . . .

A: No, I did not write any of her songs. I got a little carried away before. With David Wolff at her side, who is a brilliant strategist, and a genius, she was destined to be a superstar. Roddy Piper is a complete imbecile, he's a complete halfwit, you can see what he did to Andre the Giant, and you can see what he did to Jimmy Snuka, you can see what he did to Rocky Johnson. He's not to be trusted.

Q: Piper has accused you of embezzling money.

A: Yeah, that's true. Piper is a complete half-witted imbecile. First of

all, every penny that me and Cyndi raised for Multiple Sclerosis is monitored, is sent directly to the Multiple Sclerosis people. We raised \$4.2 million. All of this can be verified through the head of the M.S. chapter, and by 1990 we expect to raise more money than anyone in the history of Multiple Sclerosis.

Q: Lou, a long time ago, when you were managing Jimmy Snuka, you were accused of embezzling money from him. Could you give us a comment on that?

A: Yes. Jimmy Snuka and I since then have gotten together, and in fact you will see him right on MTV, Music Television, saying that he thought it was a downright shame. He said that we have had our differences. He said that we did have money problems, and money differences that were investments that I made that were wrong. I did not actually take the money, but I did make bad investments for Jimmy. And I was the first one to admit this, and after doing this I have compensated him in ways.

Q: So you're rebuilding the trust with him?



“

I want to make a public apology to all you people: stating I'm sorry, that I was wrong . . . I promise you that I will not go back to my old ways.

”

A: He feels that he is more than paid back. I am the one that brought Jimmy Snuka in here. He threw his arms around me on MTV, in front of David Wolff, in front of Cyndi Lauper. He said, "Captain, I'm glad to call you a brother," and when he put the victory sign up, the sign of peace for man, it made me feel, Bill, like a big man.

Q: A great many times Bruno Sammartino told us that he had a lot of trouble with a lot of opponents when he was champion, but probably the biggest thorn in his side, in his career, was "this crazy Capt. Lou Albano." What are his feelings about you now?

A: He realized that all these years there were some goods and some bads—just like Hulk Hogan said—Bruno said that he realized that I was a misunderstood person, perhaps sometimes I did a lot of rotten things, I'm going to be the first to admit it.

Q: It's amazing to hear you say this. Say something to the fans who still

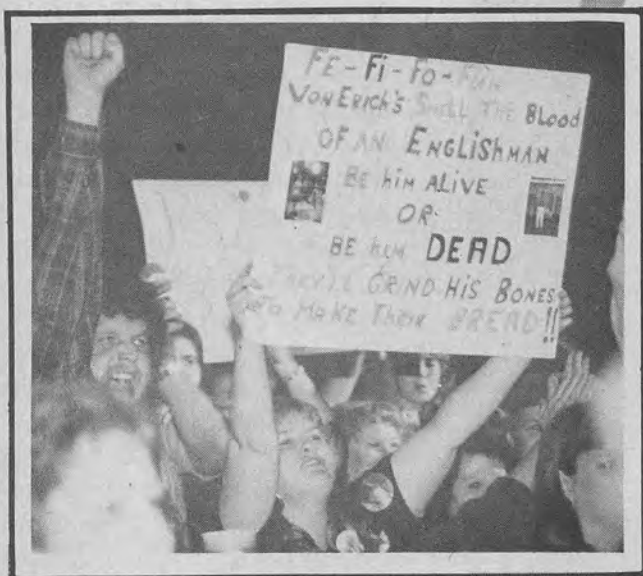
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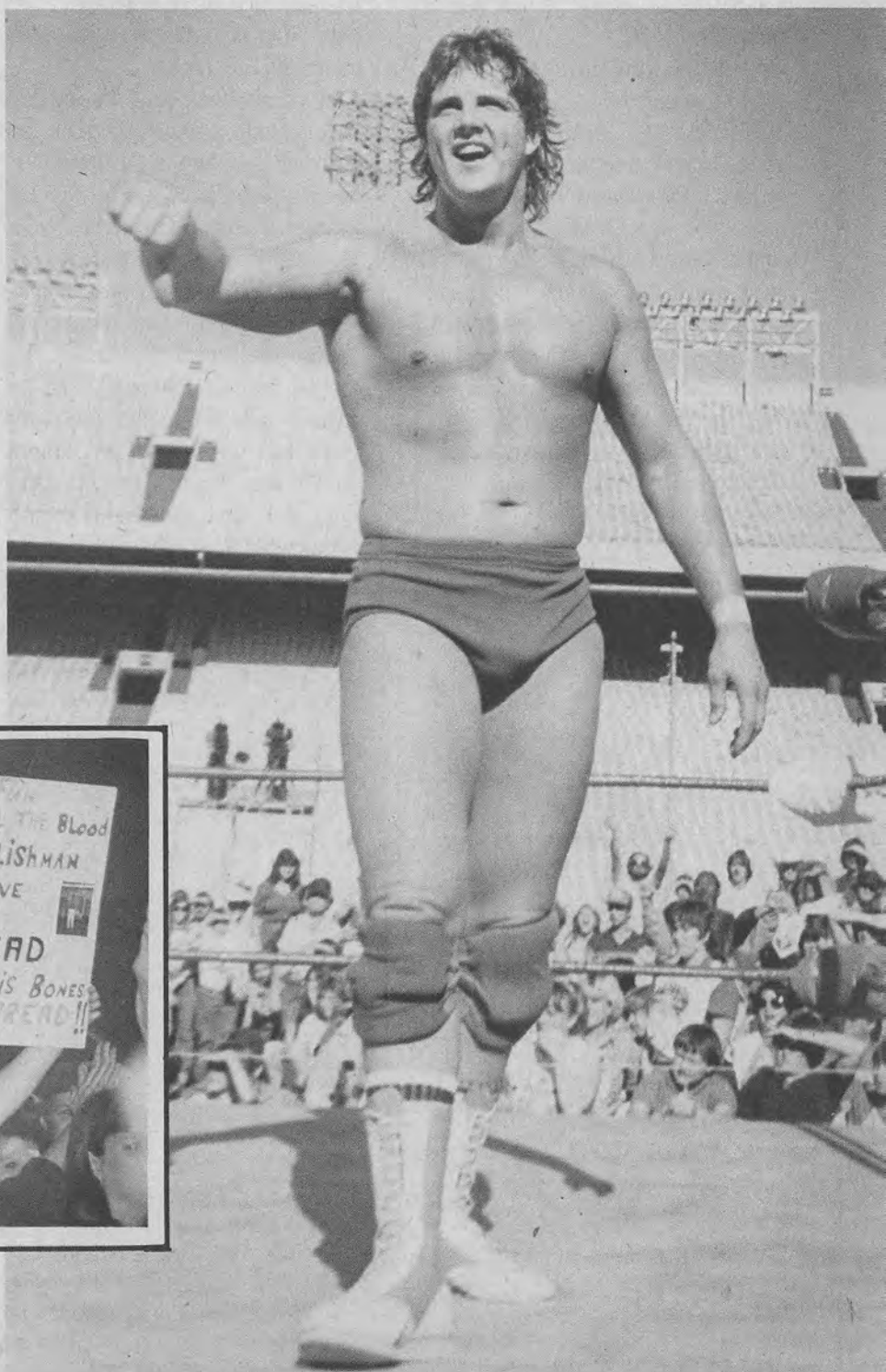
Albano and Fred Blassie have a conversation in the Garden dressing room in 1983. Now the two men are likely to be matching their managerial genius against each other!

A FAN'S HEARTFELT PLEA TO CHRIS ADAMS FALLS ON DEAF EARS

By savagely turning on the Von Erichs, "Gentleman" Chris Adams has proven that he is no gentleman. A Texas fan's open letter to Adams, recently received by *Inside Wrestling*, begs Adams to turn back before it's too late. Adams' reply indicates that it already is too late



The fans give their opinion of Chris Adams (above) and Chris Adams gives his response (right).



Photos by Buddy Myers

An open letter to Chris Adams:

I've put a lot of thought into what has happened to you in the past few months. I really have. I used to be one of your biggest fans, now I'm one of the people who hates you the most. I've been trying to figure out why. Here's what I've figured out.

Back in August, you took on Gary Hart as an adviser, because you wanted to get the title shots that you deserved. You were still one of the most loved men in wrestling back then. For a while I thought that maybe Gary Hart had changed his ways, that you would help him earn respect in the wrestling world. I never dreamed that it would work the other way around, that he would help you earn the hatred



Chris Adams, accompanied by Sunshine, joins Mike and Kerry Von Erich for a six-man tag team match last February. Before Gary Hart entered the picture, Adams and the Von Erichs were inseparable.



Hart looks worried as Adams and Kerry Von Erich square off (above left). Adams dropkicks Kevin Von Erich, his former best friend (above right). Hart looks on from ringside as Adams and Jake Roberts work over Kevin (right).

of everyone you came in contact with.

Then, about a month later, you were in a tag team match with Kevin Von Erich against Gino Hernandez and Jake Roberts. It seemed like everyone was at ringside for that match: Gary Hart, Nicola Roberts, and Stella Mae French.

Hernandez pinned you in that match because of a mistake Stella Mae made, but that was no reason for Hart to start pushing her all over the ring! Okay, so you lost one match. Big deal. Your unbeaten streak under Gary Hart was ruined. Big deal. Because of that Hart had to try and hit a woman?

So Kevin came in and did what you should have done: He defended Stella

Mae. And when he pushed Hart away from Stella Mae, you superkicked Kevin! Come on, Chris! That was totally unnecessary. Kevin was only doing what you yourself should have been doing: defending a woman who was being hit by a man.

And then you turned your back on Kevin while Jake and Gino brutalized him. That was awful. Not only didn't you defend Stella Mae, but you didn't help one of your closest friends in the world. Is this what Gary Hart taught you? Is this how he wants you to treat the people you care most about? I guess so. Kind of looks bad when you look back on it now, doesn't it, Chris?

Then, in October at the Cotton





- Kevin Von Erich is superkicked as he tries to approach Adams with a chair (above left). Under Hart's management, Adams secured his first NWA World title shot, against Ric Flair (above right). Chris reaches back to throw a right uppercut at Kerry Von Erich (below).

Bowl, you had your chance to fire Gary Hart. Kevin said he would forgive you, that it would all be water under the bridge, if you would just fire Hart. But no, you had to respond by hitting Kevin over the head with a chair—from behind!—and leaving him lying in a pool of blood with a concussion and a head wound that needed 18 stitches to close.

And all because Kevin beat you fair and square in the Cotton Bowl in a strict scientific match. Open your eyes, Chris: Hart's turned you into something less than a man! You can't even accept a simple defeat anymore!

Everyone has a bad day once in a while, everyone gets pinned from time to time no matter how good they are. But you've got to accept it and move on from there. But no, you can't face up to a defeat like a man. You have to take out your frustrations on Kevin, a man who's done so much for your career over the years.

Please, Chris, please. It's not too late to turn back now. I hate seeing you the way you are, but deep down I think that there is still hope for you. And deep down, if you look closely at yourself, I think you know in your heart that you're on the wrong path.

Please, Chris, fire Gary Hart; he's poison. Apologize to Kevin and the Von Erichs; it's not too late. Regain your self-respect; the respect and love of the fans will return as well in time.

You can do it, Chris. You have the strength. You can't continue on the way you've been going. It's suicide. Please, please, *please*—turn back . . . before it's too late.

ANNETTE NADBOY

Dallas

Dear Annette:

Why is it that every time I read a letter from someone who claims to have been my fan, and steadfastly affirms that they are no longer my fan anymore, several important points are overlooked.

You seem to have forgotten about Thanksgiving evening in the Reunion Arena, when Kevin Von Erich—my supposed longtime friend—hit me over the head with a chair and very nearly put out one of my eyes! You seem to have forgotten about Christmas night, when Kevin attacked me with the iron claw after the match was over, then went wild with a chair again, hitting both me and Gary Hart.

And you respect this man? You support him? Remember, Annette, Kevin Von Erich has done everything in his power to destroy me and my chances at the NWA World title. Gary Hart has helped me to gain title shots at Ric Flair—I never saw any Von Erich do anything ever to help me get a shot at the NWA World title. But they'll do everything they can to give Kerry another title shot, won't they?



Wake up, Annette. I'm not a monster. I'm simply doing what I've always done: my absolute best in order to achieve success. Kevin Von Erich obviously doesn't want me to be successful, because it might detract from the attention and cheers he values so highly.

I haven't changed at all. It's the fans who are hypocrites. Now that I'm gaining some of the success I deserve, they've turned on me. Maybe the fans can't stomach anyone but their beloved Von Erichs being so successful. I don't know.

But I do know this: Gary Hart is the best thing that's ever happened to me in my career. If you and the rest of the fans can't accept that, that's your problem, not mine. □

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

One of the darkest days of 1984 occurred in May when Bob Armstrong became the victim of a brutal and senseless attack by Ted DiBiase. Armstrong sustained a broken cheekbone, hairline fractures in several bones of the face, and had to undergo extensive facial operations and plastic surgery.

When then-National champion Brad Armstrong found out what happened, he naturally rushed to his father's defense. What followed was a brutal feud between Brad Armstrong and Ted DiBiase that threw the entire Georgia area into turmoil.

In November, Brad and his tag team partner, Tim Horner, were forced to give up the National tag team title due to Horner's injuries and their inability to defend the belts. Armstrong traveled to the Mid-South, where he rocketed up the ratings.

On December 5, Armstrong captured the North American heavyweight title from Ernie Ladd. He quickly learned that one of his top challengers would be none other than Ted DiBiase, who, in fact, went on to win the title from Armstrong on January 16.

In the months to come, the relationship between Armstrong and DiBiase will determine the fate of the North American title for some time to come. Inside Wrestling felt it appropriate, therefore, to bring these two men together to discuss their situation ... "One on One."

ONE ON ONE



"You've got something of mine—the North American title. I'm coming for it."

—Brad Armstrong

TED DIBIASE:

You know, Brad, I saw your old man the other day and I think he's looking good. In fact ...

BRAD ARMSTRONG:

Listen, DiBiase, don't get me started. You have a hell of a nerve bragging about what you did, putting "face arranging by DiBiase" on the front of your shirt. You're real proud of what you did to my dad, aren't you? Well, let me tell you this: You've got something of mine—the North American title. I'm coming for it, and I'm going to finally get the chance to finish the job I barely started. I'm gonna pay you back in full for what you did to my father.

TD: Pay me back? Pay me back? But Bradley, you don't owe me any-

thing. It was my pleasure to rearrange your dad's face. Think of it as a favor. Remember when you're a little kid how you used to look up to your father, how you used to think he was indestructable, a living god almost? Well, little fella, *I broke your dad's face, understand?* If I didn't show mercy he'd be pushing up daisies right now, so hold your breath and your cheap threats, little fella! I've got the North American title, and it's around my waist to stay. Keeping the belt away from you will as easy as robbing a blind man.

BA: Which is something you would do, isn't it DiBiase? Rob a blind man. And if he was a cripple, you'd steal his cane. You know something? You have no morals

N ONE



"Keeping the belt away from you will be as easy as robbing a blind man."

—Ted DiBiase

whatsoever. You have no shame. You have no sense of what's right and what's wrong. You just move along doing what you want to do, when you feel like doing it. Well, there's more to life than just what *you* feel like doing, DiBiase. Come on and try me. Give me my chance to regain what's rightfully mine. You'll learn pretty quickly how much more to life there is.

TD: *"Come on and try me. Give me my chance to regain what's rightfully mine."* God, you sound like a five-year-old spoiled brat. Which is what you are, Armstrong, a spoiled little monkey. You've been living off the reputation of your old man for too long. Now that his reputation is shot to hell, you have no leg to

stand on. And you'll never have this belt to hold your trousers up again, little boy.

BA: Wishful thinking, DiBiase. I don't live off *anyone's* reputation. I won that belt from Ernie Ladd; it wasn't *given* to me by my father. Are you really that afraid of wrestling me for the North American title that you have to keep dragging my father into it? You know I can beat you. I've beaten you before, for the National heavyweight title, and I'll beat you again for my North American title.

TD: You're getting way ahead of yourself now, little boy. I destroyed Tommy Rich. I kicked his scrawny little hide clear out of wrestling. Everyone knows that he was Mr. R, that he was

wrestling every night with a mask. Except for that title match on television. When I saw him standing at Gordon Solie's podium, it . . . well, let's just say it was a conspiracy between you and Rich to steal the National title from me. You couldn't beat me alone if your daddy's life depended on it. Except now *your* life depends upon it. And you're a dead man Armstrong. D-e-a-d.

BA: Look, DiBiase, I'm not standing for your crap anymore. You think you can psych me out, but you can't. I beat you fair and square for the National title last year, and I'm getting my belt back come hell or high water. You know something? Your days are numbered, brother. You can't possibly hope to keep my belt away from me. Drool over it if you have to, DiBiase, because your days as champion are numbered. And I'm not going to let you psych me into a loss, either. So you can take your empty boasts of crippling and just . . .

TD: And just cripple you! How's that featherhead? I'll boast about crippling you and then I'll cripple you. *Ha! Ha!* Think of it Armstrong, if I punch your nose through the back of your head then you could look just like your father again.

BA: Shut up, DiBiase. *Shut up!* All you have to do is try it, brother. You make it sound easy, but it's not. You're going to find out that mixing with me is not like mixing with the little boy you think I am. Step right up, DiBiase, step right up and find out what it feels like to be hurt the way you hurt my father. And don't bet on keeping my North American title for so long, either. Before long it'll be around my waist to stay, brother.

TD: Repeat after me little boy: Good-bye nose, goodbye mouth, goodbye arms, goodbye North American title, goodbye Brad Armstrong. □

THIS MONTH IN...



THE Wrestler



BOB BACKLUND battles **HARLEY RACE**—and looks ahead to a world title match!



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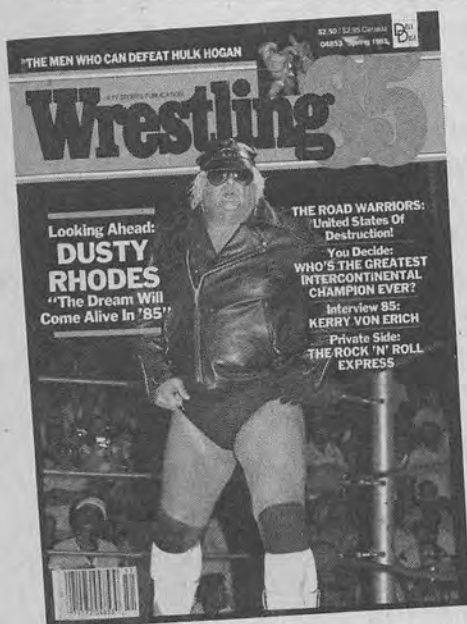
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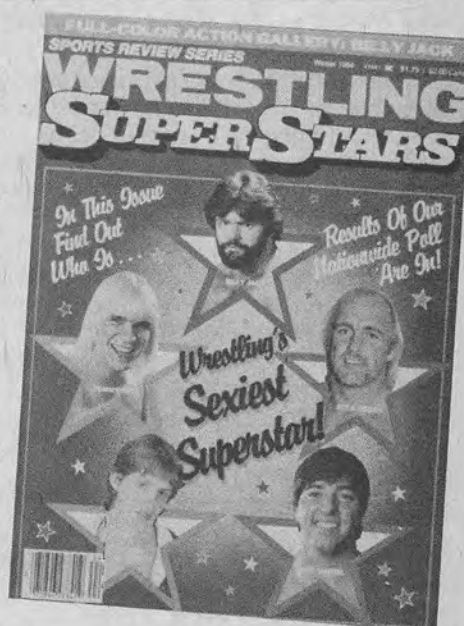
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

many changes in the past, but he has emerged as a number one fan favorite here in the Southeast and an excellent contender for NWA World heavy-weight champion Ric Flair.

Mr. Olympia well deserves a feature article in your magazine and ratings. He's number one!

CARLA GAUGHT
Opelika, AL

HAYNES IS NUMBER ONE

Billy Haynes is a great man! I have always had a great deal of respect for his wrestling ability and I've followed his career since he first made headlines wrestling in Florida. Now I have grown to respect him as a human being as well. Billy's going back to his legal name and his dedicating his ca-



The fans respect Billy Haynes' decision to use his real name. Carol Foster of Sarasota, Florida, predicts Billy will win the NWA World championship.

reer to his father was a wonderful thing to do. Because Billy values his career more than anything else, it was the greatest gift he could have given his father.

I hope that Billy enjoys incredible success this year, and I hope he goes all the way to the NWA World heavy-weight championship. I know he has

the talent. With the inspiration of his father behind him, I know he can do it.

CAROL FOSTER
Sarasota, FL

GENERATING A NEW WAVE

I'm hoping you'll print this letter, because I'm going to take this time to thank Wendi Richter for bringing woman's wrestling back into the public eye. At first, everyone was praising rock singer Cyndi Lauper for lending her fame to Richter's title victory and giving a spark to the distaff side of the sport. Even the most skeptical have to now give credit to Richter, however. It has been half a year since her victory, and she has added tremendously to the respect of her title.

I can also see that her victory has regenerated some interest for women who would like to get into wrestling. My daughter came home from school the other day and recounted to us a discussion her friends had in gym class that day. They were discussing the possibilities for women in pro sports, and she said there were a number of girls who were thinking about exploring the chances of careers in wrestling, and all of them mentioned Wendi Richter was their inspiration.

Maybe Richter's title reign will be responsible for a renaissance in her sport. That would be some reward for her.

FRANCINE TAYLOR
Wilkes-Barre, PA

BACKLUND-A-MANIA!

I'm happy to see Bob Backlund's full-time return to professional wrestling. I was present at almost all of Backlund's New York-area WWF title defenses, and I always admired his talent, ability, and his dedication to the art of scientific wrestling.

Now that Backlund has aligned himself with the *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* promotion, I'm anxious to see how he will fare against the NWA and AWA World champions and against big men like Nikita Koloff and The Road Warriors.

(Continued on page 52)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 51)



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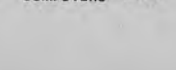
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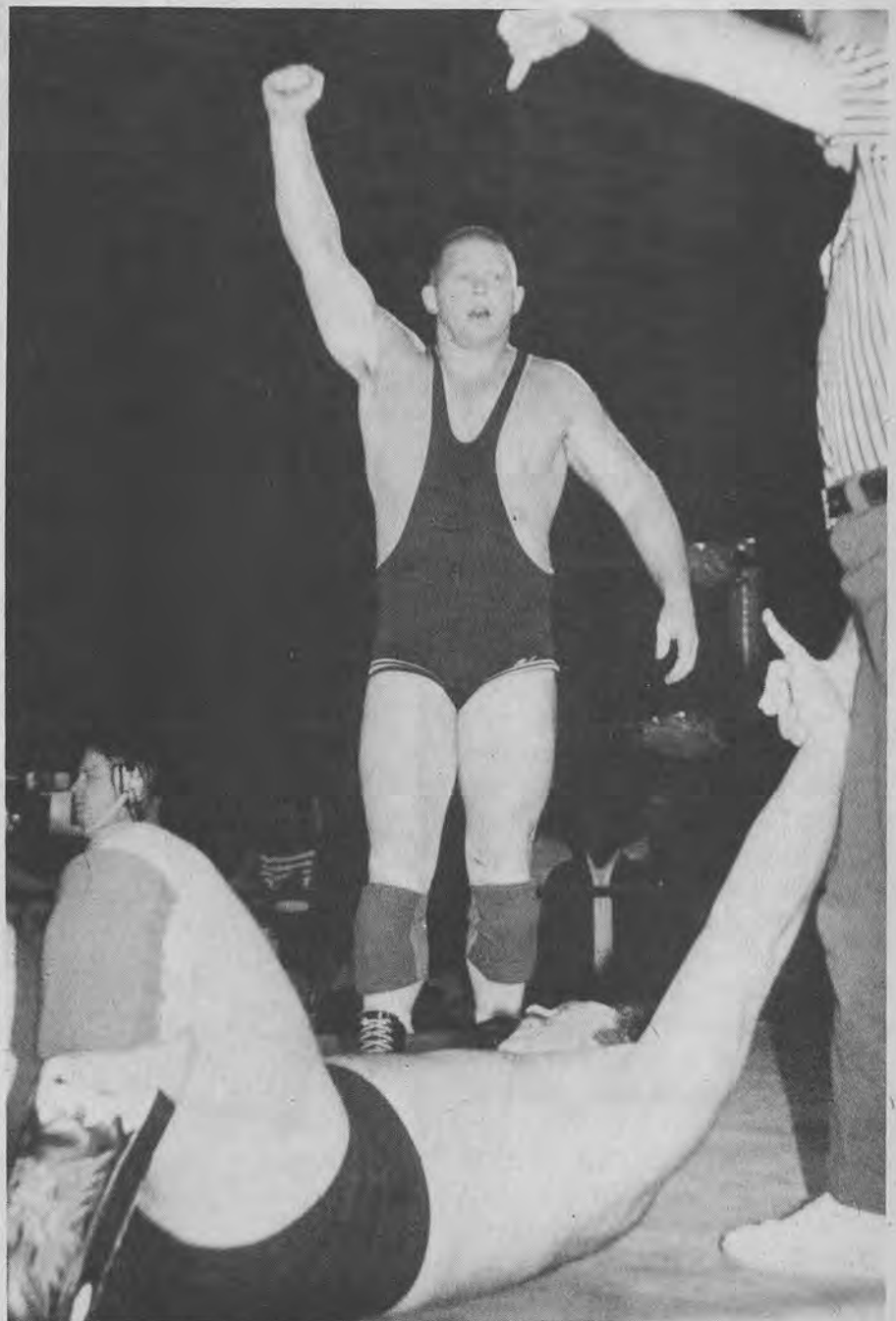
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Rick Martel and Ric Flair will be facing some stiff competition in Backlund. He's always kept himself in great shape, but now he has something to fight for. From what I have read in your magazine, Backlund feels he was given a raw deal in the WWF. He wants to prove to wrestling and to the fans that he is a champion. The two current champs are going to have to be in the best shape of their lives to fend off Backlund.

As far as Koloff and the Warriors

Bob Backlund raises his hand in victory after defeating Ron Bass. Reader Amy Verling feels that Backlund has the ability to defeat world champions Rick Martel and Ric Flair. go, I'm very interested to see the battle of size and power vs. skill and stamina. If there is a smaller man in wrestling who can succeed against these giants, it is Backlund.

Good luck, Bob, and I look forward to seeing you wrestle in person very soon.

AMY VERLING
Plainview, NY ☐

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



Managing Editor Stu Saks grimaces in pain as Sgt. Slaughter tightens his cobra clutch. If this were a color picture, you'd see a lot of red in Stu's face!

and grabbed my raised left wrist.

Not bad so far, I thought to myself.

The next 30 seconds of my life felt like 30 minutes.

Slaughter took his left arm and worked it between my left arm and my shoulder. He then secured his left hand to my neck.

Is this the inescapable cobra clutch that has made some of the strongest men in the world say "Enough!"?

I made the mistake of telling Slaughter that it didn't hurt.

"Well, there's a good reason for that, dogface," he joked. "Just wait until I turn on the juice!"

"Turn on the juice?" I asked.

"Okay, if you insist!"

All at once, Slaughter pulled back on my left wrist and pushed forward with his left hand. Somewhere in the middle of all this was my neck. I felt the majority of pain on the sides of my neck, but the worst part of this whole experience was the feeling of the blood pushing against the sides of my head. As Slaughter later explained to me, it's not the flow of blood to the brain that is cut off;

it's the flow of the blood out of the brain that is cut off. So with no other place for the blood to go, I could feel it pushing against the side of my brain. If I had an open cut on my head, the blood would have probably shot out all over the walls!

As my face became redder and redder and my eyes bulged out of their sockets and the pain in my neck grew more and more intense, I sensed myself losing consciousness. I wondered for a moment where the referee was so that I could submit. Nobody in the room told him to stop, they later told me, because they they mistook the grimace on my face for a smile.

Finally, the Sergeant relinquished his grip. I staggered around the floor and he grabbed me before I fell. "How ya feelin', buddy?" he asked me, trying to conceal a smile.

"Huh, what, er, I, uh," was my intelligent answer.

Slaughter sat me down in a chair. "Stay here for a few moments," he said. "You'll be okay."

I couldn't say a word.

"I can't wait to get the color film developed," Bill told Craig. "Did you see his face? It was purple!"

When the flow of blood in and out of my brain was back to normal, I finally spoke: "Hey, Sarge, did you have to go so hard on me?"

Slaughter rubbed the back of my neck sympathetically and laughed. "Stu," he said, "I gave you about one-third of a full cobra clutch. If I applied it with the same force as I would in a match, I probably would have broken your neck. Don't worry, you'll live."

Perhaps. But the way I'm feeling now, I'm not sure if I'll ever be quite the same. □

HOTSEAT

(Continued from page 41)

don't trust Capt. Lou Albano.

A: I want to say this to the fans who still don't trust Capt. Lou Albano. I'm not gonna change my style, I'm not gonna change my ways, I'm gonna yell, I'm gonna holler, I'm gonna shout. But I want to tell all you people out there, if it wasn't for all you people, Capt. Lou Albano wouldn't be in the position that I'm in today. If it weren't for all you many, many fans who read the magazines and support wrestling, we wouldn't be in the position that we are. I want to make a public apology to all you people: stating that I'm sorry, that I was wrong. If there's any doubt in your minds about me turning or changing, well I'm not gonna change back to the bad ways, I'm gonna stay with this, and I'm gonna dedicate the rest of my life to curing multiple sclerosis. I promise you I will not go back to my old ways, I will try my best to stand up for what's good and what's right, and for the youth, the people, and God bless you all, and may Christ be with you.

Q: One last question: For years I've asked you the direct question, "Captain, do you interfere in matches?" I would tell you that I had photographs to prove that you did. And you'd respond by saying, "You're blind, double-exposed pictures, trick photography."

A: I'm gonna have to turn around and reverse that statment, just as I've done many things in the past. Yes, at times I did interfere. Yes, at times they were not optical illusions. Yes, at times it was a rotten, no-good Capt. Lou Albano who did many things wrong, Bill, and I'm so ashamed of this, and I feel that with good reason, in the position I'm in today, I'm gonna turn around and make amends. If I can't make amends, at least I'll try. ☐

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BODYSLAMS

(Continued from page 18)



Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is largely responsible for the turnaround in Capt. Lou Albano.

Albano's mind. It isn't an exaggeration to state he was the most insightful manager to ever handle tag teams. His record speaks for itself. The 11 teams he has managed to championships have been different in all areas except success. Albano's brilliance was so flexible and elaborate that he could adapt his strategies to whatever abilities his team possessed. Albano's tenure as manager might well be seen from the distance of history as the golden era of tag teams.

All that Albano required for success were men not afraid to defy the fans for a higher good. Not for him were the craven cowards that worry what the crowds will think. When Albano's teams were at their best, it was because they understood that Capt. Lou was the only one whose opinion mattered. They had no need for cheers. Instead they had championship belts. That's what Albano meant for a tag team.

Albano will no longer manage men of integrity. Instead, we'll find him surrounded by mediocrities. Losers all, they'll be equivalent of clowns like Jimmy Snuka and Barry Windham. Can you imagine Lou Albano managing a team that included Barry Windham? The waste of intelligence is pathetic.

As stated earlier, however, no one has the right to condemn Albano the man. Roddy Piper and others who have

attacked Capt. Lou haven't earned the right. Albano was waging their wars alone when those guys were still in high school. If it weren't for Albano, it would be much harder for men like Piper to survive. Though Lou may no longer be a force in wrestling, his legacy will make it easier for the courageous to excel. Every time a wrestler defies the fans and succeeds, he will owe a debt to the sacrifices suffered by Lou Albano. No one has the right to discredit that.

An exhausted man seeking the ease and comfort of approval, Lou Albano has earned the right to surrender. We can hope the restless mind will force the weary body to once again join the fray, turn on the fans, and battle for wrestling's honor. We can hope but we have no right to demand that.

Unhappily, we probably have very little hope. Lou, like so many lesser men, has fallen victim to the cheers.

He has given wrestling so much. For that, he has earned immortality. We can take comfort in the knowledge that history will ignore or dismiss his ignominious end. ☐

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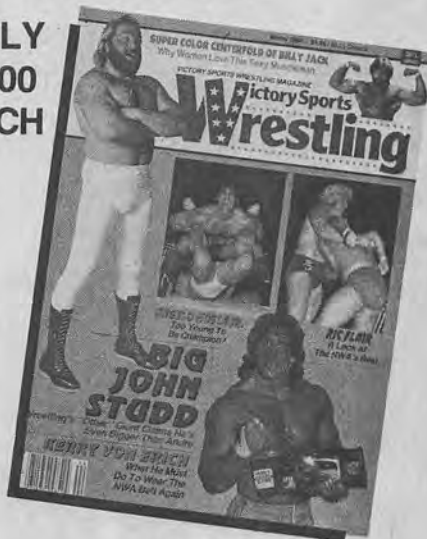
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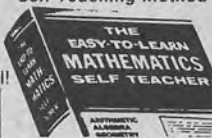
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MARTEL-GARVIN

(Continued from page 37)



Martel's arm-twist brings Garvin to his knees. Martel is confident in his ability to keep his AWA title from Garvin, but he knows he has to be careful not to let his challenger psych him out.

as all of you witnessed a few months ago, he attacked her in the ring, the poor man's frustrations getting the best of him on television. It was then that Precious struck on the idea of exchanging herself for the belt. When she suggested it to Martel, he didn't hesitate for a moment.

"There is an obvious dearth of fine looking women in Canada and with Martel's personality resembling a dead man's, it's hard for the guy to find suitable companionship. Precious doesn't care. She has nothing but contempt for a man like Martel who would sacrifice his integrity for the sake of a woman. She'll be with

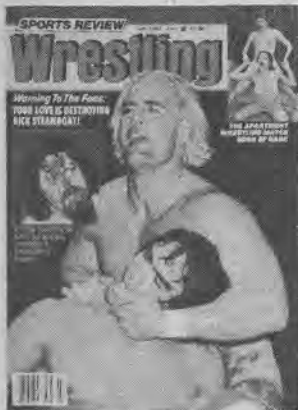
him in body, but her mind, soul, and spirit will always be with me. Eventually, a man like Martel will self-destruct anyway, and then we'll be back together. The important thing is that I will become the World champion."

With that, Garvin stepped off of the pedestal and embraced Precious. With tears streaming down her face, she announced, "I do this for you Jim Garvin because I love you more than I love life itself," and, raising a glass of champagne, she announced, "Drink everyone, drink to the next champion of the world!"

The two then left the dressing
(Continued on page 60)

Wrestling

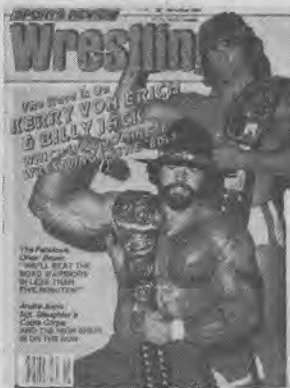
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MARTEL-GARVIN

(Continued from page 58)



Above: With a simple but effective twist of the wrist, Martel draws a cry of pain from his challenger. Below: Garvin grabs the champion by the hair and throws him through the ropes and out of the ring.

room together, leaving the reporters to sort through the startling revelations. Martel was contacted at home and told of the allegations. It was a tired voice that answered Garvin's accusations.

"You know, in all my years of wrestling I've never encountered anyone like Garvin. It's much harder fighting him out of the ring than in it. As a wrestler he's fair and easily manageable, but once he gets an audience he's impossible."

But what about Precious, Rick? What about the trade?

"I'm surprised any of you fell for that nonsense. Forget the obligation I have to all my fans and my family, forget the fact that I find Precious incredibly unattractive, do you think that I can go around and trade my championship in like a used car? C'mon, I thought you were smarter than that. I'm just tired of having to defend myself against Garvin's cheap rumors. It affects my con-



centration. It throws me off my game. And that's why I didn't stick around after their match."

The question that remains for wrestling fans, and for Jim Garvin and Precious, is can these artificial distractions affect Rick Martel enough to cost him the title? The answer to that question will tell us how much Martel has matured as a world champion. ☐

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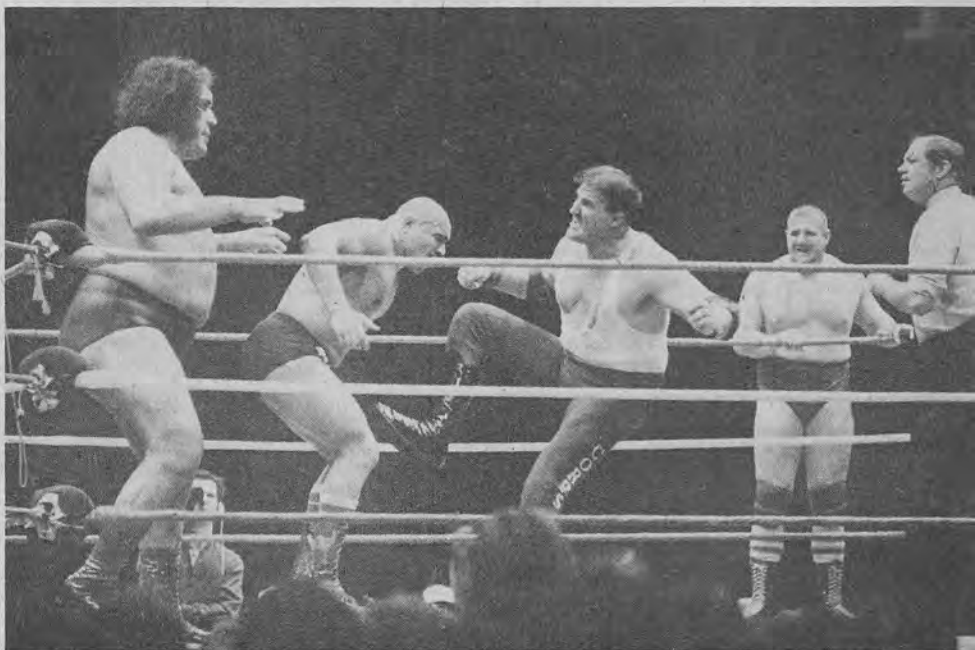
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SGT. SLAUGHTER

(Continued from page 35)



Slaughter formed a popular tag team with Andre the Giant for a series of matches against the combination of Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff. Slaughter tries to rip off Sheik's allegedly loaded boot (above). Andre and the Sergeant do some double-teaming on the Iranian; Volkoff wisely stays out of the ring (below).



jaw was accented by a wide grin that spoke volumes.

Slaughter didn't say it outright, but we both knew it: He had gone as far as he could possibly go in the WWF. There was nothing else the WWF could offer him. It was time to move onward and upward, and a campaign for a world title was the next logical step in his career.

And then, of course, there's the

continuing campaign against those wrestlers who would decry the American system that paradoxically has allowed them to be so successful.

"When I heard about Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, I was shocked," Slaughter told me. "What he has done to a pair of fine Americans like Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell is despicable. But it's not only Al-Kaissie in the AWA, it's also Mr. Saito. And it's slime like Masked

Superstar, who follow the twisted orders of men like Al-Kaissie.

"And in the NWA, the problem is just as bad," Slaughter continued. "The Russian menace is spreading. Not only is Ivan Koloff spreading his diseased beliefs throughout the wrestling world, but now he's got his nephew Nikita to help him. Plus there's Krusher Khrushchev—Krusher Khrushchev! This is the most . . . this maggot makes me want to vomit. How an individual, born and bred on fine American soil, can turn his back on . . . it makes my stomach churn. I want a chance to teach that pig a lesson."

Slaughter made it very clear to me, however, that he is not turning his back on the many fans who supported him during his tenure in the WWF.

"These fans in the Northeast, and all across the country, in fact, have come to expect something from me," Slaughter said. "They expect no less of me than that I give 110 percent of myself every time I step into that ring. They expect that I continue to defend the ideals and principles that this country stands for against marauding hordes of scum like the Koloffs, Saito, Al-Kaissie, and Khrushchev. They expect nothing less than pure American excellence."

"And that's what I'm going to give them," Slaughter declared, "or I'll die trying."

With that, Slaughter clicked his heels together, snapped me a salute, flipped his riding crop under his arm, and briskly turned around to prepare for his television interview.

Sgt. Slaughter has left the WWF, but he certainly has not left his fans. If anything, he is devoting himself to his fans and to the defense of American patriotism more than ever before. He's achieved everything he possibly could in the WWF, and now the NWA and the AWA—plus the certainty of world title matches—welcome Slaughter with open arms. As successful as 1984 was for Slaughter, the coming year should prove to be even more so.

It's 1985, Sgt. Slaughter: Forward, march! ☐

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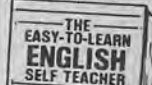
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 20)

interesting sidebars. I graduated from college majoring in English and International Relations, minoring in disillusionment and cynicism. If you've got pretty white teeth and a nice body then you make it in this world. If you don't, good luck. I tried law school, this time attending one of those Ivy League institutions that reek of mahogany and tradition, and found instead they really stand for money and more money. If your uncle sits on the board of directors somewhere, then you've got it made. If he runs an honest hardware store like mine did, then good luck. I dropped out of law school, *pronto*.

I took it down to Florida where I waited on tables, scraped barnacles off a fishing boat, hustled money playing racquetball, covered sports for a couple of newspapers, and fell in and out of love with the same girl too many times. Through it all, through the days when my Pontiac doubled as my bed, to the week when a particular socialite entertained me at her Palm Beach mansion, Matt Brock's words have always stuck in my head, like a fly in molasses.

Because life is so unpredictable, I now find myself writing for *Inside Wrestling*, my desk about 10 feet from Matt Brock's. Matt pretty much keeps to himself and his bottle, but whenever he does open up you can bet I'm on top of his every word. And no, fool, he doesn't remember me from six years ago, because I already asked him.

What I've learned on the road, in the office, and in life, is what Matt's known his whole life: Most things aren't as they appear. People are more style than substance, more shine than finish. If you believe in virtue, then life can become a pretty bleak proposition, as it has for Matt Brock.

Matt likes me. He might not admit it but I know the old codger likes me. He likes me because I see through his cold front sometimes and recognize his humanity. He likes me because despite all the bull you get slung in your face,

I haven't given up my basic hope. Being cynical, expecting the worst out of people is the easy way out. It took me a long time to realize that, and for me that's Matt Brock's real message. He's crusty, he's gruff, he's impossible to please . . . but he hasn't given up hope. He's also gonna try and kill this copy before it sees the inside of a magazine, but he won't be able to. This is my column, and I can print whatever I damn well please.

WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE DEPT.:

Krusher Khrushchev and Jim Neidhardt deported to the Soviet Union and arrested as CIA agents . . . Chris Adams win a world title and silence his critics . . . The Missing Link on Johnny Carson . . . Somebody, anybody, beat The Road Warriors . . . Unification of the NWA and AWA titles . . . Lady Giant Nicola Roberts get a title shot at Wendi Richter

What would you like to see? Drop me a line and let me know.

So, things aren't always as they should be. That girl who used to live in Florida has since moved to Washington but still refuses to accept my calls. And now, in my first month on the staff, I am forced to confront life with Capt. Lou Albano as a fan favorite. C'mon. Is this the same Capt. Lou I remember from my childhood attacking Chief Jay Strongbow with the Chief's tomahawk? The same Albano who for years taunted Bruno Sammartino, calling the Living Legend "spaghetti bender"? Please, Captain, peddle your swill somewhere else. It's not that I don't believe you're sincere in this current effort, it's more that I think your ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy is about as clear as a foggy day in London. Albano turns over more new leaves than a giant spruce during a Vermont autumn. Fan favorite, rulebreaker, labels cannot affect the irrationality of Capt. Lou Albano. One can only sit back and watch. Thanks for your time, have a good month, and I'll see you later. □

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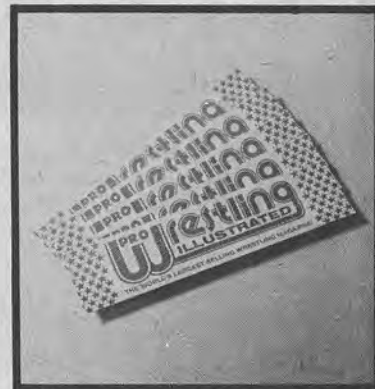
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Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account boiling at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER! That gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
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- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
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- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing **WITCH'S MONEY JAR**—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the **MONEY MAGNET SPELL** over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the **MONEY SPELL**. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the **MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT**, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic hands secret that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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HERE IS OUR OFFER...

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own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt... even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and at least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

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